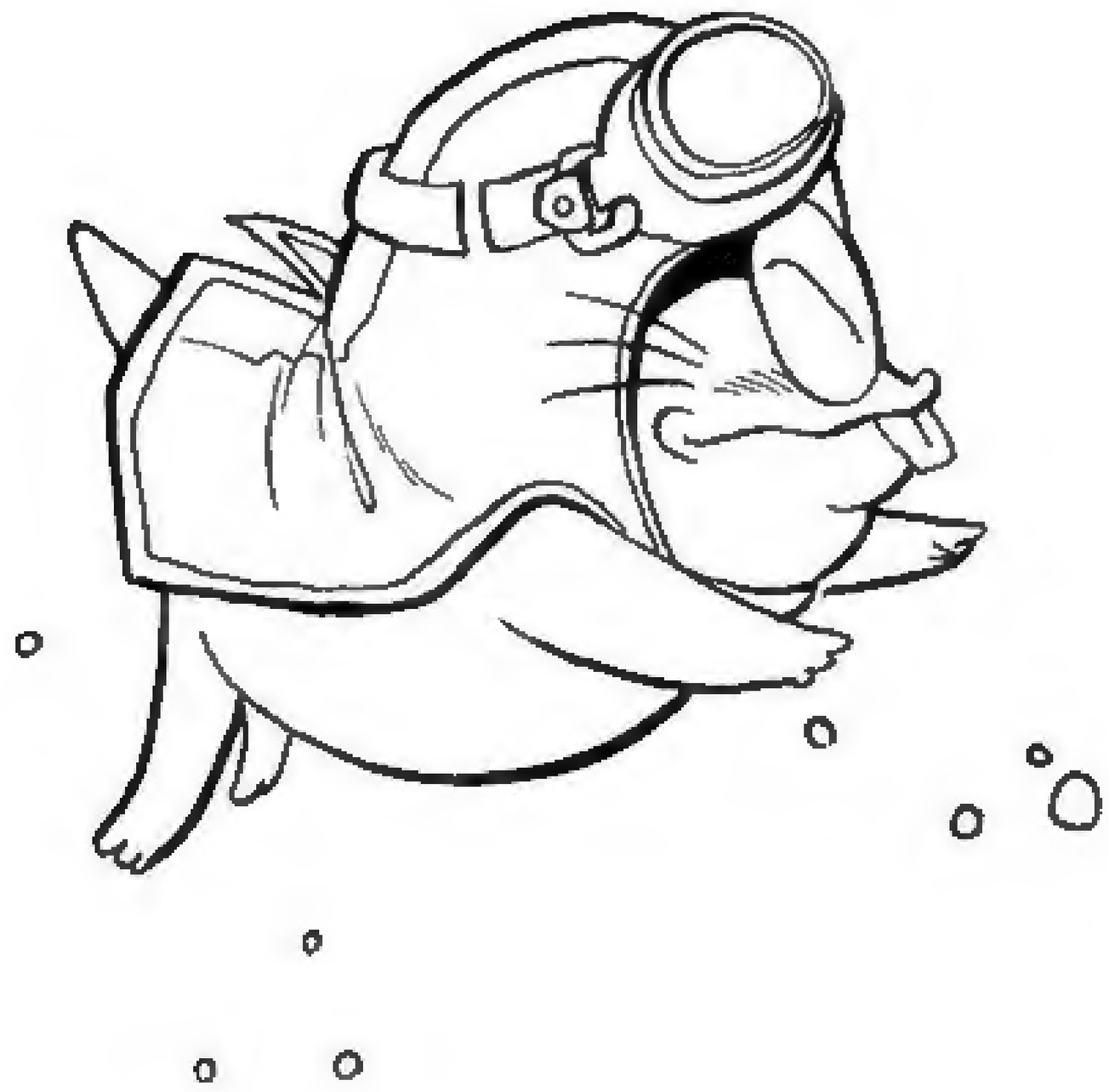
快刀乱麻

Johji Manabe

3

Shonen Sunday Comics

VOLUME 2
キャラバン・キッド



publisher
Mike Richardson

series editors
Robert Boyd
& John Weeks

collection editor
Suzanne Taylor

collection designer
Corey A. Stephens

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David Scroggy • product development
Andy Karabatsos • vice president & controller
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TWO'S COMPANY,
THREE'S A
CROWD PLEASER.

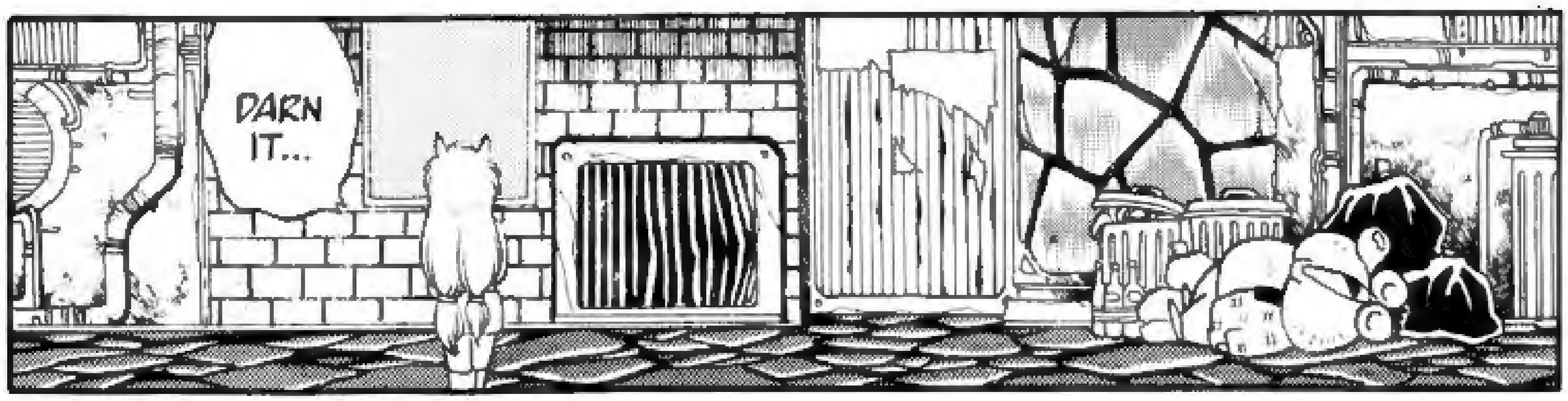
THE 3RD ANNUAL EMPRESS SHION CUP WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

ALL ENTRIES WELCOME !!

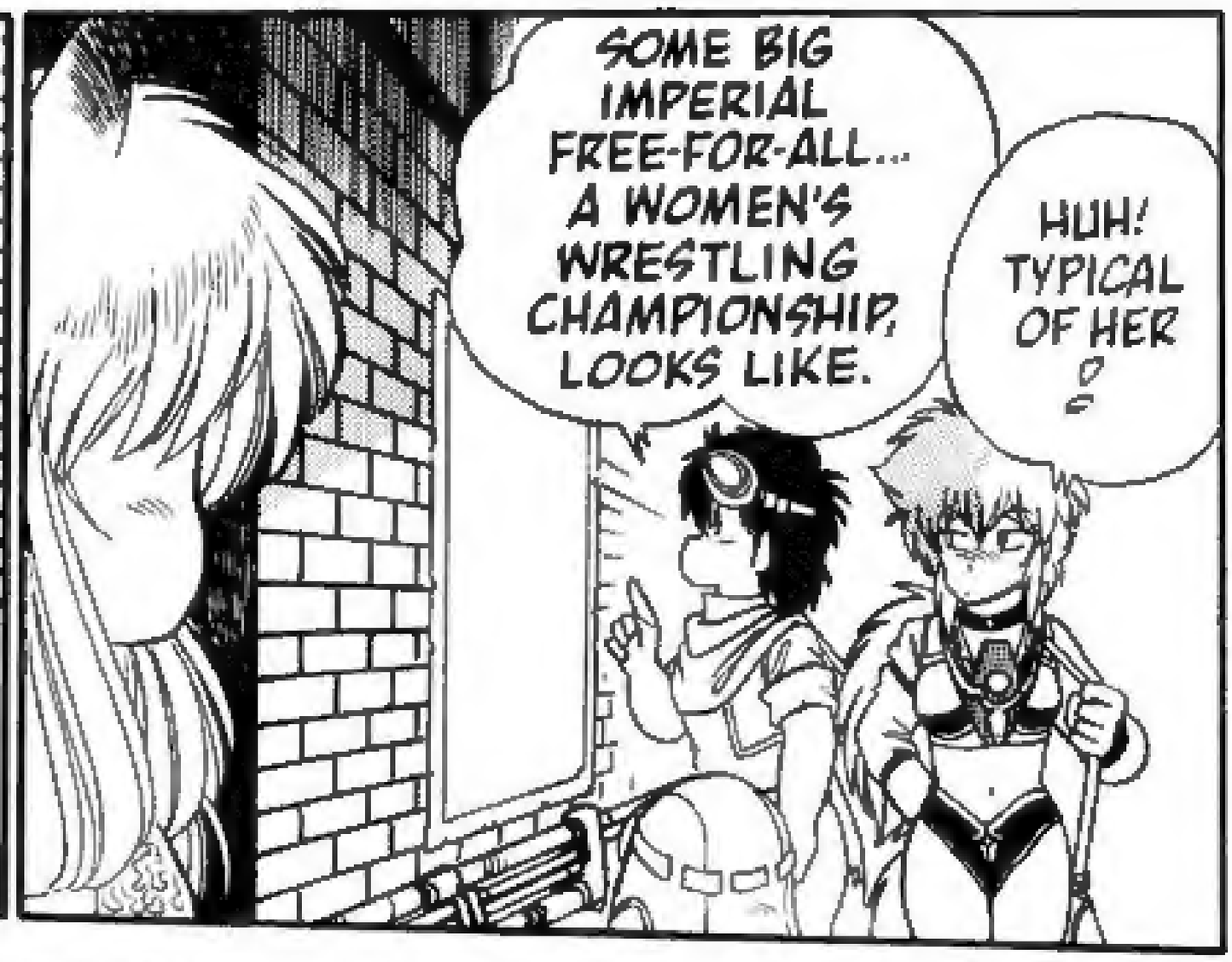
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY 7,000,000 D.D.

TOP PRIZE 3,000,000 D.D.

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



WHAT'S THIS GARBAGE ?


SOME BIG IMPERIAL FREE-FOR-ALL... A WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP, LOOKS LIKE.
HUH! TYPICAL OF HER ?

HEY, CHECK IT OUT--THE WINNER GETS 3,000,000 D.D.!!
THREE MILLION DOUBLE-Ds?!!

OH, MIAN-
WHACK

Awu... I DIDN'T EVEN SAY ANYTHING YET...
YOU DON'T NEED TO, YOU GREEDY LITTLE BLOB. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

IN THAT CASE, WE CAN GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS. I'M HAPPY TO REPRESENT YOU AS YOUR AGENT--
DON'T EVEN BOTHER.

"WRESTLING"... DEAR GODS, WHAT PRIMITIVE, BARBAROUS VIOLENCE.
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU HAD ANYTHING AGAINST THAT?

ANYWAY, I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS, AND IT'S A TAG-TEAM MATCH.
I DON'T HAVE A PARTNER, SO...
NO PROBLEM! WE JUST DOLL UP OLD WATARU A BIT, AND--
OH NO YOU DON'T!
EXCUSE ME...
YOU'RE SERIOUS? YOU WANT TO TEAM UP WITH ME?

MY NAME'S CHAU ROH.
I'VE COME ALL THE WAY FROM THE SOUTHLANDS FOR THE TOURNAMENT.
BUT MY PARTNER TOOK SICK ALONG THE WAY...
AND YOU WANT ME TO STAND IN FOR HER.
SORRY, HONEY...
...BUT WE'RE IN A HURRY. WE'VE GOT A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF US.
STILL, A LITTLE REST NEVER HURT ANYONE.
ZIP IT, BUTTERBALL, OR I'LL DRIBBLE YOU AROUND THE ROOM A COUPLE TIMES.
OKAY, I UNDERSTAND. YOU WON'T HELP ME...
SIGH
....
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, DEARIE. TRY SOMEONE ELSE.
SLAP
WELL... GOODBYE.
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!
AW, C'MON, MIAN-- GIVE HER A CHANCE!
SINCE WHEN DO YOU ORDER ME AROUND?

SHE'S COME A LONG WAY FOR THIS. WHAT'S THE HARM OF HELPING HER OUT?

WATARU, SOMETIMES YOU ARE SUCH A SOFTHEARTED GOON...

NO, REALLY, IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL FIND SOMEONE...

YEAH, MAYBE... BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING--

--YOU CAN SEARCH THE WHOLE WORLD AND NOT FIND FREAKISH POWER LIKE HERS ANYWHERE ELSE!

STOP TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF MONSTER!

SHE'S RIGHT. ANY NEGOTIATIONS FOR THIS DEAL SHOULD GO THROUGH MIAN'S MANAGER--AND THAT'S *ME*.

SINCE WHEN ARE YOU MY MANAGER, YOU SCROFULOUS GIT!?!

GRRNGRRNGRRNGRRNN

!

IT'S HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS' PRIVATE YACHT!!
IT'S THE EMPRESS SHION HERSELF!!
KPOF
KPOF
WHAT? THE EMPRESS SHION'S COMING?!
YOU BET! SHE'S HERE TO OBSERVE HER TOURNAMENT!

WELCOME, WELCOME, ONE AND ALL! THE TIME IS HERE, THE TIME IS NOW!!

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE THIRD ANNUAL EMPRESS SHION CUP WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP !!

JUST LISTEN TO THAT CROWD GO WILD !!

YAAAAY

THIS YEAR WE AGAIN BRING TOGETHER THE TOUGHEST, MEANEST, BIG BAD MOMMAS FROM ACROSS THE WHOLE CONTINENT!!

AAH, THE FLYING SWEAT! AH, THE GLEAMING FIRM BODIES!!

A HEALTHY BODY HOUSES A HEALTHY SPIRIT !!

A HAPPY ARTIST DRAWS A BETTER COMIC BOOK !

AND IN THE RING NOW, LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONS, THE WILDCATS !!

AND ALL AROUND THEM, THEIR EAGER CHALLENGERS! ALL STRAINING AT THE LEASH FOR THE SOUND OF THE BELL!

THEY'RE ALL GALS, GUYS...

MY DISGUISE IS PERFECT! NOW TO REGISTER!
WATARU! WAIT! STOP!

ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN. JUST DON'T EMBARRASS YOUR MASTER.
SO YOU'LL JOIN THE TOURNAMENT ?!

LUCKY, HUH?

HELLO THERE, SWEETIE. THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR LITTLE GIRLS.
BETTER RUN HOME TO MOMMA BEFORE YOU GET HURT.
DON'T WET YOUR PANTIES!
NYAHAHA
THANKS FOR THE ADVICE, SISTER.

SILENCE, EVERYONE! HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY IS TAKING HER SEAT !
THREE CHEERS FOR EMPRESS SHION !!
HURRAH FOR EMPRESS SHION !!
GLORY TO HELGEBARD !!

HURRAH HURRAH HURRAH

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

HURRAH FOR EMPRESS SHION!!

HURRAH! HURRAH! HURRAH!

WELCOME, YOUR HIGHNESS.

AH. MAYOR SONOYAN.

WELL? HOW ARE THE WRESTLERS THIS YEAR?
AHH, HAND-PICKED TO DELIGHT YOUR AUGUST PRESENCE. I THINK YOU'LL FIND THEM MOST SATISFACTORY

HEH... I ALWAYS ENJOY IT. SOMETHING ABOUT BLOOD-SOAKED BODIES TORN APART IN THE RING...

BEHOLD, YOUR MAJESTY-- THE ATHLETES PAY THEIR RESPECT TO THE THRONE.

MAN!
HI, THERE!

YOUR HIGHNESS..?! IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, MIAN..?

KESSLING!

YOUR MAJESTY!

.....

.....

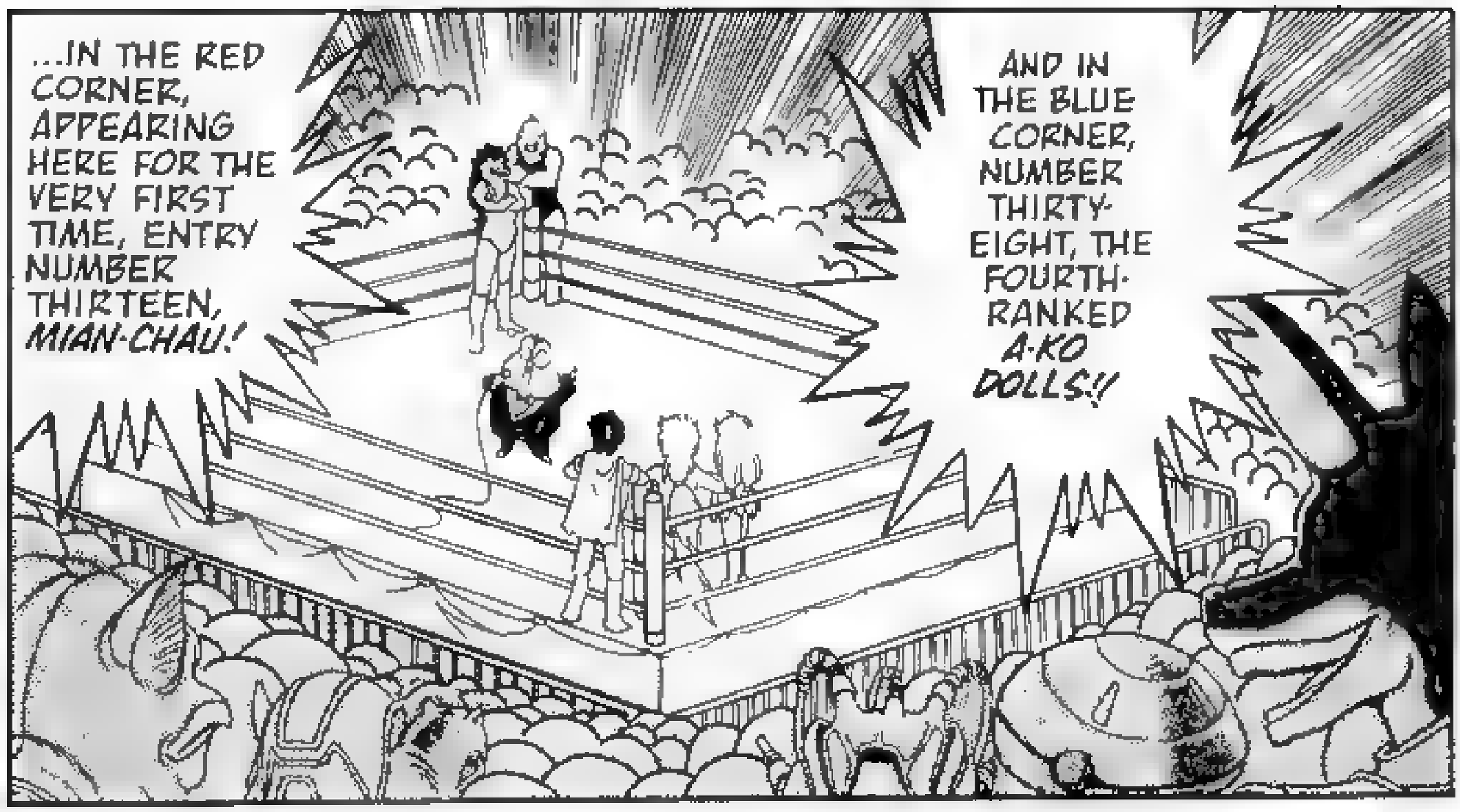
UNDERSTAND?

YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

I'LL SEND FOR THEM AT ONCE.

AND NOW, LET US BEGIN THE FIRST MATCH!

THE LUCKY TEAM TO HAVE THE THE HONOR OF STARTING THE IMPERIAL TOURNAMENT IS...


...IN THE RED CORNER, APPEARING HERE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, ENTRY NUMBER THIRTEEN, MIAN-CHAU!
AND IN THE BLUE CORNER, NUMBER THIRTY-EIGHT, THE FOURTH-RANKED A-KO DOLLS!!

BETTER BE A GOOD FIGHT.

WHAT A MISERABLE-LOOKING PAIR.
WASTE OF TIME, EH?

WELL, THEN .. I'LL GO FIRST
OKAY...

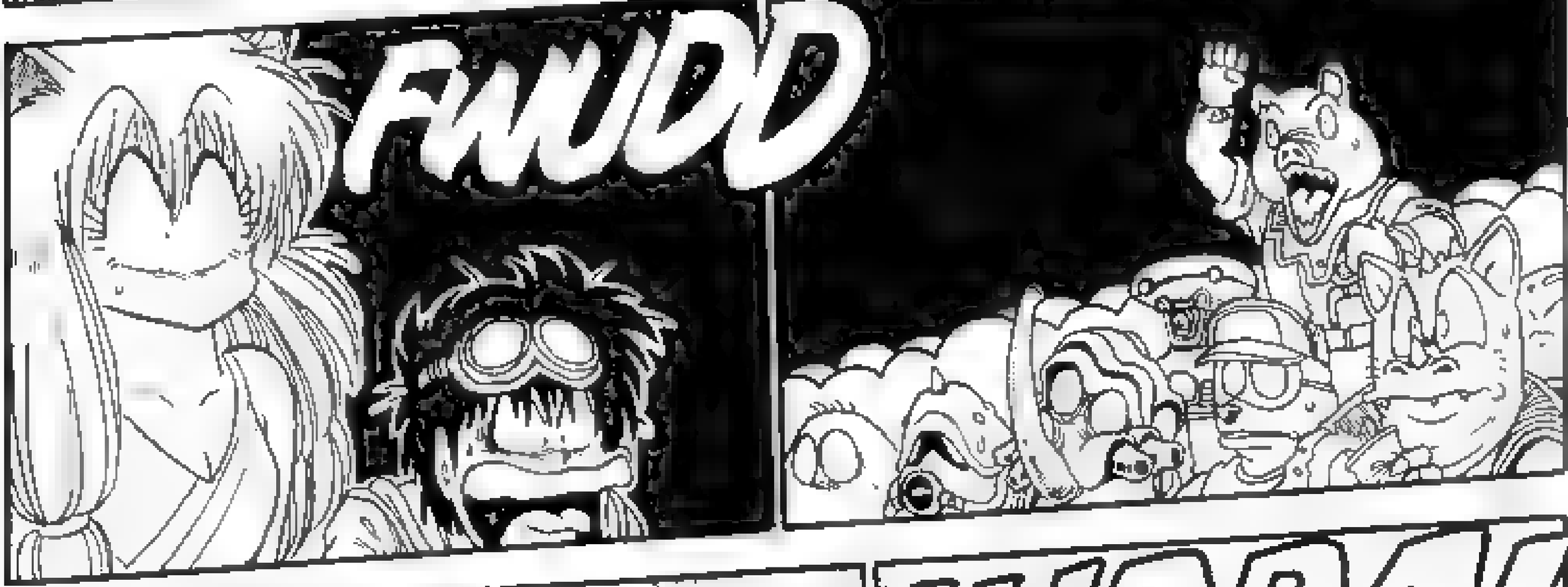
BE CAREFUL, MIAN! THEY LOOK PRETTY TOUGH!

DON'T DO ANYTHING TO GET YOURSELF HURT!
NOW YOU WORRY.

THE BELL HAS RUNG! THE MATCH IS UNDER WAY!!
MIAN FROM THE RED TEAM HAS ENTERED THE RING!
HEY, HONEY... LEAVE SOME FUN FOR ME.
YOU WISH, BITCH. I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
YAY

!!

GNUFF!


FWUDD

SORRY, GUYS-- THEY'RE OUT.
THEY AREN'T DEAD, ARE THEY ?

HEY, REF! WELL... ?
HUH? OH, YEAH...

HURRAY

YAHOO!!
JUST LIKE HER...
MA'AM ?
LET'S HEAR IT FOR MIAN-CHAU !
THEY CLEAR THE FIRST MATCH WITH ONE KILLER PUNCH!!
OH, MIAN, YOU'RE SO STRONG !
JUST LET ME AT 'EM!
IT'S HAPPENING, FOLKS! THE ONCE IN A LIFETIME LONG SHOT, COMING OUT OF NOWHERE! MIAN-CHAU!
YAHOO!!
THE TOP-RANKED WRESTLERS ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES BEFORE MIAN-CHAU!
COME 'N' GET IT!!

MIAN-CHAU DEMOLISHES THE TOP HWWA TEAM! WIPES THE MAT WITH LAST YEAR'S RUNNERS-UP!!
NYA HA HA HA! LOVELY MONEY!!

YOW, BABY! YOUSE DA BEST!

HEY, MIAN! GIMME A SMILE!!

INCREDIBLE... SHE'S FINISHED EVERY MATCH SHE'S FOUGHT IN LESS THAN A MINUTE!

AND *LOVING* IT, THAT NUT CASE!

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THAT SKINNY LITTLE THING...

A SKINNY LITTLE THING WHO'S BEEN DEFEATING ALL OF *YOUR* WRESTLERS, *HMM*, MAYOR?

YOUR HIGHNESS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

BEEP

YOU...?!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NEVER TO CALL ME HERE?!

WHAT?

YOU SAY SOMEONE'S BEEN WINNING ON EVERY MATCH?!

YOUR MAJESTY! IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, A LITTLE SOMETHING'S COME UP THAT I MUST TEND TO, UH, PERSONALLY.

SO GO! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF YOUR REVOLTING FACE.

HMPH. HE'S BEING CLEANED OUT, ALL RIGHT. NO WONDER HE'S NERVOUS.

UNGG...

YOU, YOU FILTHY SCUM...

...WE'LL NEVER LET YOU TAKE...

...OUR BELT..

SKREAK

SKAAA
YES, SIR. HE'S BEEN PUTTING EVERY BET ON THAT TEAM, ON MIAN-CHAU...
AND SO I, CONFOUND IT, HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT!! RIGHT?!
THAT'S HIM, SIR
NYA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
THIS IS THE LIFE!!

THE PROBLEM IS, HE'S BET HIS ENTIRE WINNINGS ON MIAN-CHAU IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH...

BUT WHEN HE'S WON THIS MUCH, DOESN'T THAT DRIVE DOWN HIS MARGIN?

IT'S NOT THAT, SIR. IT'S THE BOOKIES-- NOW THEY'RE REFUSING TO TAKE BETS ON YOUR TEAM FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND.

WHAT?!

MY DEAR SIR...

!

YOU SEEM TO BE ON A BIT OF A *ROLL*, EH?!

NYA HA HA! YOU SAID IT, CHUM. THANKS FOR THE RIDE!

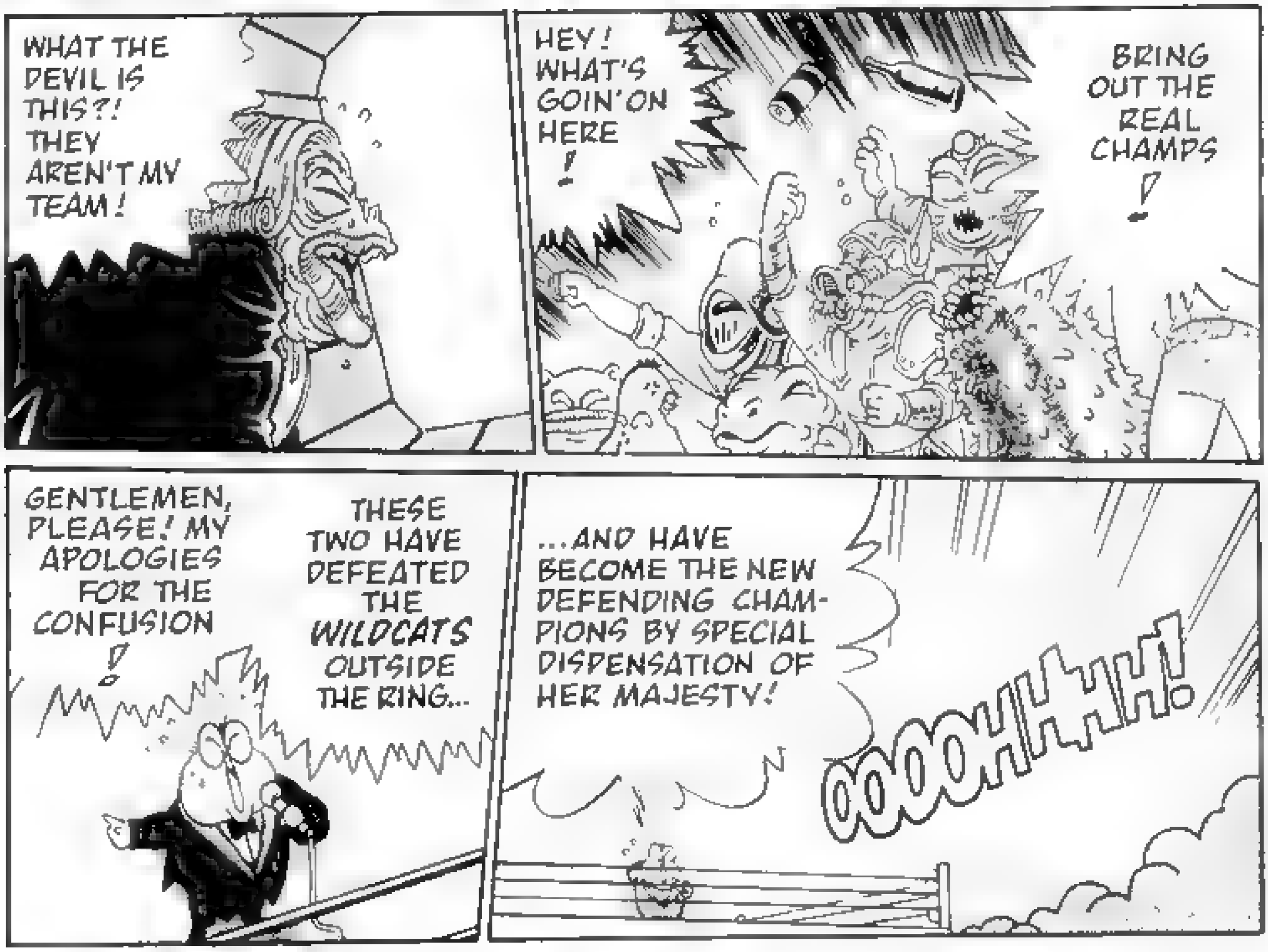
BUT TRAGICALLY, MY FRIEND, I NO LONGER HAVE ANYONE TO PLAY AGAINST. SEEMS THE LOCAL BETTORS ARE A BUNCH OF SPINELESS WORMS...

I SEE, SIR. THEN PERHAPS YOU'LL DO ME THE HONOR..?

NO KIDDIN', PAL?

YES, SIR! I AM *DEADLY* SERIOUS, SIR! I PLACE MY BET ON THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS--

MR. MAYOR-- LOOK!


WHAT THE DEVIL IS THIS?! THEY AREN'T MY TEAM!
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN'ON HERE!
BRING OUT THE REAL CHAMPS!
GENTLEMEN, PLEASE! MY APOLOGIES FOR THE CONFUSION!
THESE TWO HAVE DEFEATED THE WILDCATS OUTSIDE THE RING...
...AND HAVE BECOME THE NEW DEFENDING CHAMPIONS BY SPECIAL DISPENSATION OF HER MAJESTY!
OOOOHHH

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE TWO. .

IT'S SHION... SHE'S GOT SOMETHING UP HER SLEEVE...

YAHOO
THE BELT HAS BEEN RETURNED!! IT'S UP FOR GRABS !!
IT'S TIME FOR THE BATTLE OF CHAMPIONS! GLORY TO THE VICTORS!
MIAN! LET ME GO FIRST!
HEY, DON'T WORRY. THIS WON'T EVEN TAKE A MINUTE
BESIDES, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ELSE PLANNED...
DON'T YOU ?

SMACK

MIAN? YOU KNOW...?!

FIVE MILLION D.D. ON THE CHAMPIONS!

KHUD

OH, MY... PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS, ARE WE?

IN THAT CASE, I THINK I'LL DROP--

FIVE MILLION ON MIAN!

THUD

WHA-?

WHAT THE-?

SKRAAK

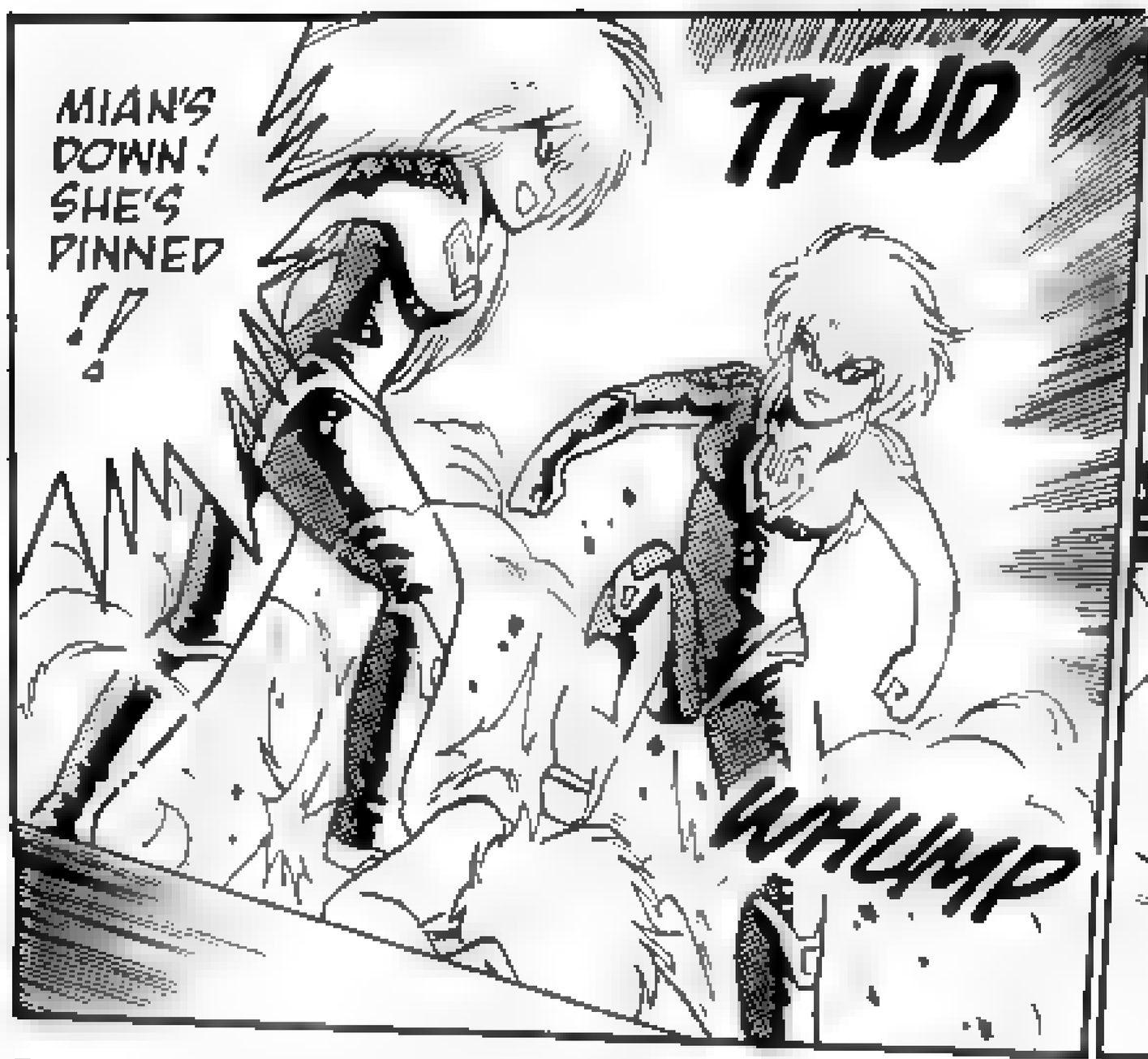
SKRAAK

KA-KA-KA-KA

MIAN!!

MIAN!!

OH, DAMN! THIS LOOKS BAD!!
WHAP
STUDD
KRAK
WACK


MIAN'S DOWN! SHE'S PINNED !!
THUD
WHUMP

MIA-OOMPH!
WHDD

WHAT'S THIS?! CHAU CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! SHE'S ENTERED THE RING !!
!
HYAAHH!
WHEAA

ARE YOU OKAY, MIAN !?
CHAU !
YOU DUMB KID! YOU SHOULDN'T SHOW YOUR REAL POWER YET!
SO... YOU KNEW ALL ALONG.
OH, SURE, HON. ONE LOOK IN YOUR EYES, AND I KNEW...
SLIP
WHY, YOU !!
AND HEY, ONLY THE CHAMPS...

WHAMMO
...GET TO MEET THE EMPRESS!
I-I'M SO SORRY. I TRIED TO USE YOU.
NO SWEAT! IT'S BEEN A BLAST!

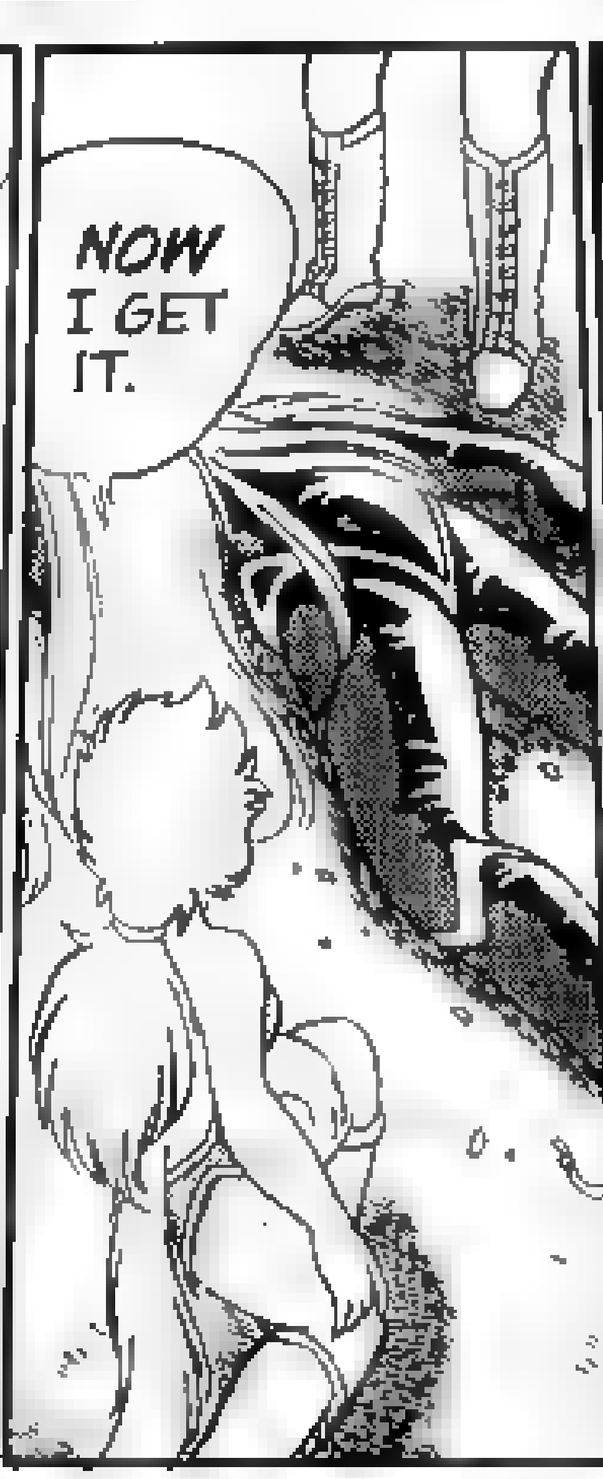
HURRAH

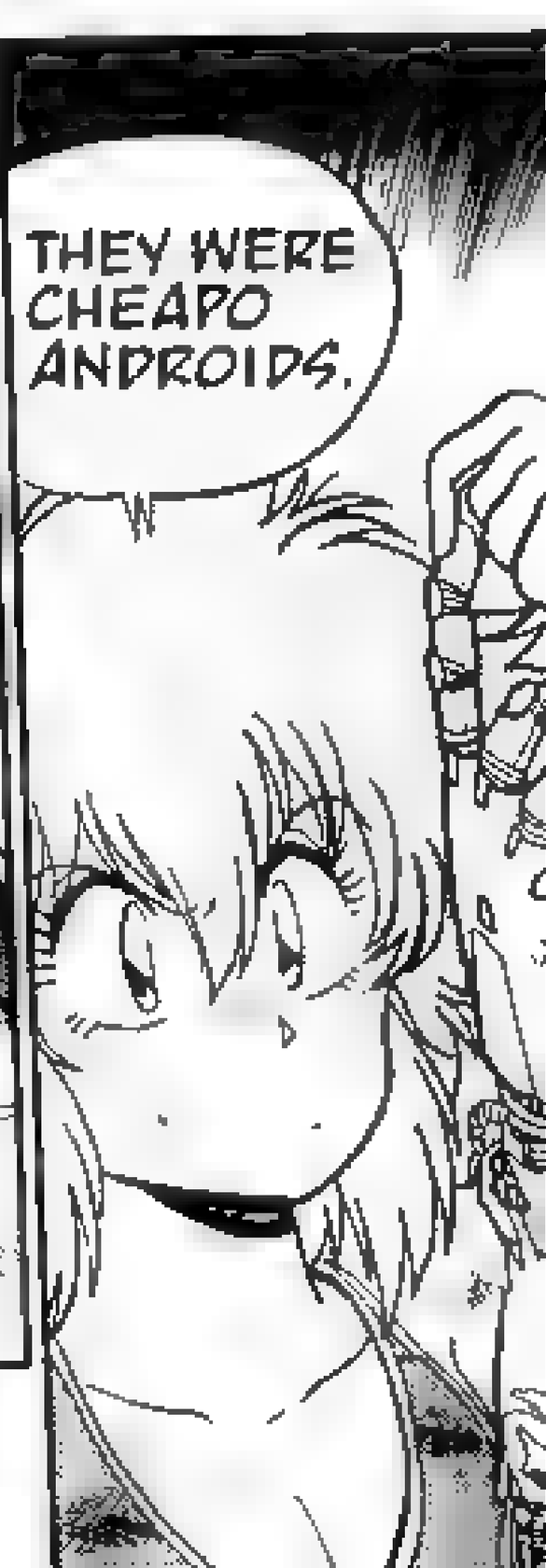
THEY DID IT! THEY DID IT! A NEW CHAMPION TEAM IS BORN! THE LOVELY PAIR, MIAN-CHAU! MIAN-CHAU!!
YAYY

NOT ONE GOOD LINE FOR ME THIS WHOLE ISSUE...

HARG!

THE MONEY'S MINE! MINE, I TELL YOU!!
WHAT?! GET YOUR GRUBBY PAWS OFF MY LOOT!!
SIR! MR MAYOR!


NOW I GET IT.


THEY WERE CHEAPO ANDROIDS.

SWAP
SWAP
THAT ARROGANT BITCH! SHE'LL PAY FOR THAT!
YOUR HIGHNESS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
DON'T WORRY. LEAVE HER BE
TODAY, TODAY WE PLAY...
NOW--PREPARE FOR THE AWARDS CEREMONY!
YOUR MAJESTY !

AND NOW, HER MAJESTY EMPRESS SHION PRESENTS THE TRIUMPHANT DUO WITH THE BLACK KNIGHT CROSS OF THE EMPIRE...

...AND MAKES THEM GLORIOUS KNIGHTS OF HELGEBARD!

YOU'RE A STRANGE GIRL.

AM I?

NOW THEN-- YOU MUST BE CHAU. YOU DID WELL, CHILD.

SOME PRAISE IS IN ORDER.

YOUR HIGHNESS !!

AN ASSASSIN ?

HOW AMUSING.

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN TOUCH ME WITH YOUR PATHETIC ABILITIES?

HALT !!!

BLAM BLAM

THEY HEADED THAT WAY! SEAL THE STADIUM !

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY !

WHY DID YOU INTERFERE?! I'LL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE LIKE THAT AGAIN!

OR ARE YOU AN AGENT OF THE EMPRESS! YOU'RE ONE OF HER KIND! IS THAT IT ?!

LOOK HERE, SWEETHEART. I WASN'T PROTECTING SHION.

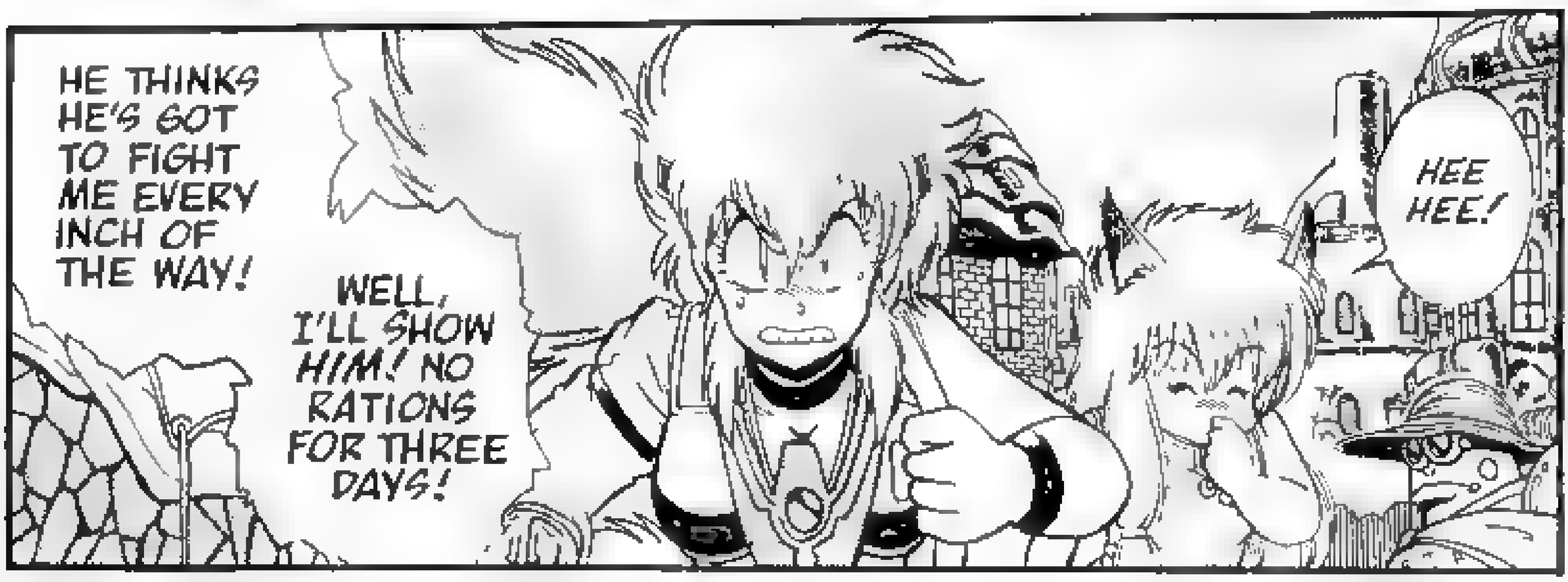
I WAS PROTECTING *YOU* FROM GETTING BLOWN AWAY!

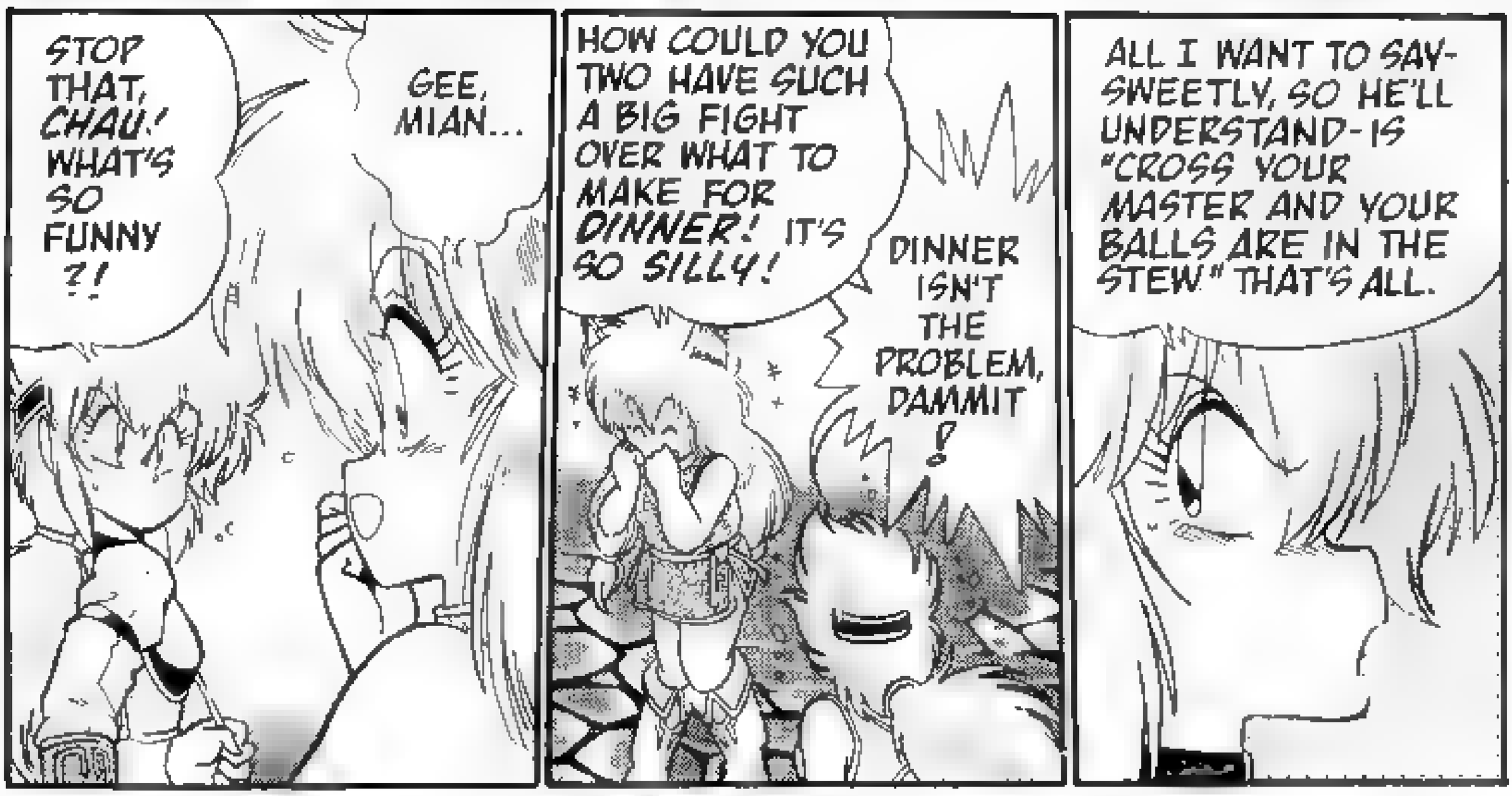
I WAS FINE!

OH, FOR SURE. SHE READ YOUR EVERY MOVE.
MY MONEY! MY DEAR SWEET MONEYYY !!
LOOK, I KNOW IT'S A DISAPPOINTMENT. BUT IF YOU'RE SERIOUS, THEN GET SERIOUS. TRAIN, TRAIN, AND TRAIN AGAIN!
MIAN! THEN LET ME TRAIN WITH YOU! I WANT TO BE YOUR STUDENT!
EH ?
YOU'RE SO STRONG! I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE YOU! WHIP ME INTO SHAPE!
UH, SURE, NO PROBLEM BUT ALL THE ADDED EXPENSE OF HAVING YOU ALONG...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AW, HECK--NO SWEAT! WE'LL JUST CUT THEIR FOOD ALLOWANCE! WELCOME ABOARD!
YAHOO!!
GAAKKKK!

MIAN
IN A
BIND

AARRGG! THAT ROTTEN LITTLE JERK!





IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS BETWEEN YOU AND WATARU? REEEEALY?!
DAMN RIGHT! NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS. THAT-IS-IT!

BUT Y'KNOW, EVERYONE SAYS THAT THE MORE YOU LIKE SOME GUY, THE MORE YOU FIGHT, MM?
IF YOU DON'T STIFLE, I'M GONNA "LIKE" YOU UPSIDE THE HEAD!

EXCUSE ME...

WHO WANTS TO KNOW?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

..BUT AREN'T YOU MIAN TORIS AND CHAU ROH?

I'D JUST LIKE A LITTLE CHAT... WITH BOTH OF YOU...

OW OW OWWW, DAMN IT!
THAT ROTTEN BROAD--ALWAYS "HIT FIRST, LISTEN TO EXCUSES LATER." SHEESH...
YOU MEAN "BEAT TO A BLOODY PULP FIRST!"
I JUST WISH I COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT TEMPER.
WISH I COULD BUY HER A FRONTAL LOBOTOMY.
OH, WELL...ONWARD AND UPWARD. DON'T KNOW IF THIS OLD BODY'LL LAST, THOUGH...
!!
YO, WATARU! WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS LITTLE PRETTY?!
HUH ?

EEEP!
AW, C'MON, WATARU! I COULD MAKE A MILLION D.D. OFF IT EASY!
TOUGH-- IT'S NOT FOR SALE!
OH, DON'T BE SO GREEDY, MY BOY...JUST LEAVE IT TO ME, I'LL CUT YOU IN.
KEEP YOUR GRUBBY MEATHOOKS OFF! IT'S NOT FOR SALE!
PLEEEEESE.. I KNOW THIS REALLY GREAT JEWELRY FENCE--
LEGGO, YA DIP! YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!
SO. THIS IS THE LEGENDARY MIAN TORIS MODEL!

SPLENDID WORK, ELENA!

NOW NOTHING STANDS IN OUR WAY.

THANK YOU, DOCTOR KOCOHM.

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR ANTI-ANDROID GAS.

QUITE SO, QUITE SO.

LET'S GET THE TORIS INTO THE SCANNER ROOM... BUT FIRST, WAKE UP CHAU!

MMM... NICE ASS!

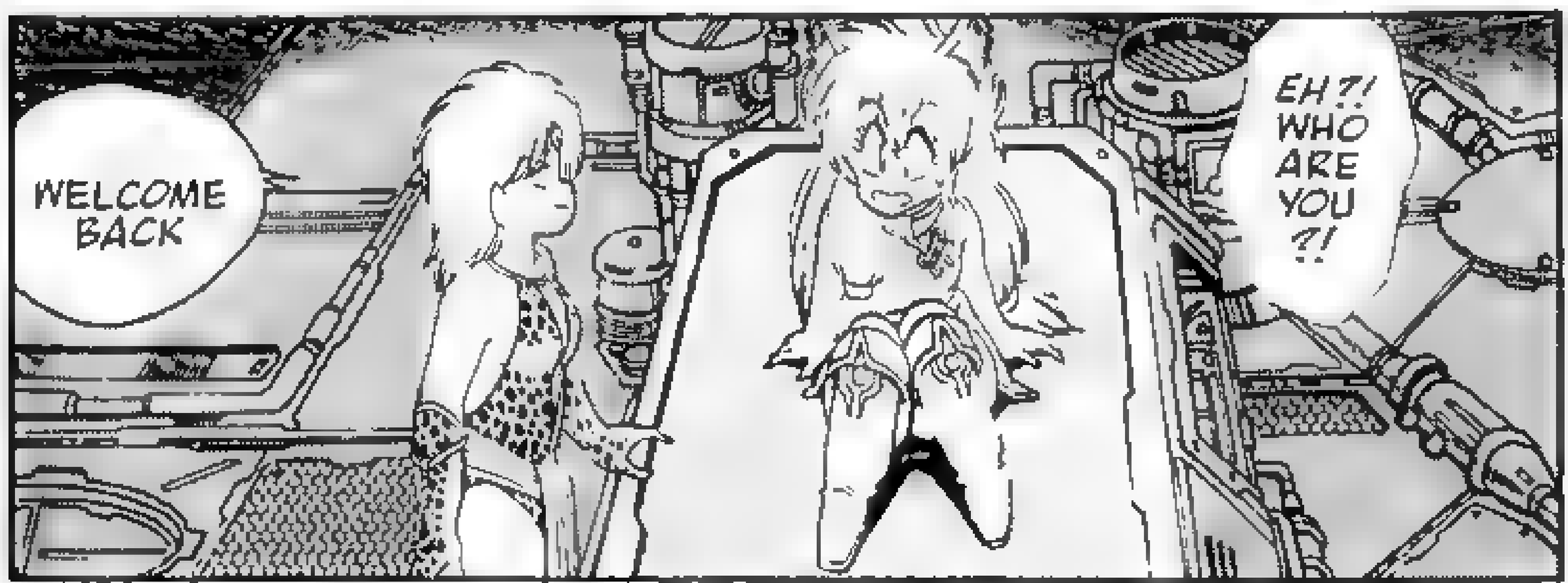
EEK!

HEH, HEH, HEH... AT LAST!

SLRRP

MMPH...

AAH!


WELCOME BACK
EH?! WHO ARE YOU?!

MEET MY NEW ASSISTANT, THE BEAUTIFUL AND COMPLIANT ELENA!
OH, NO!

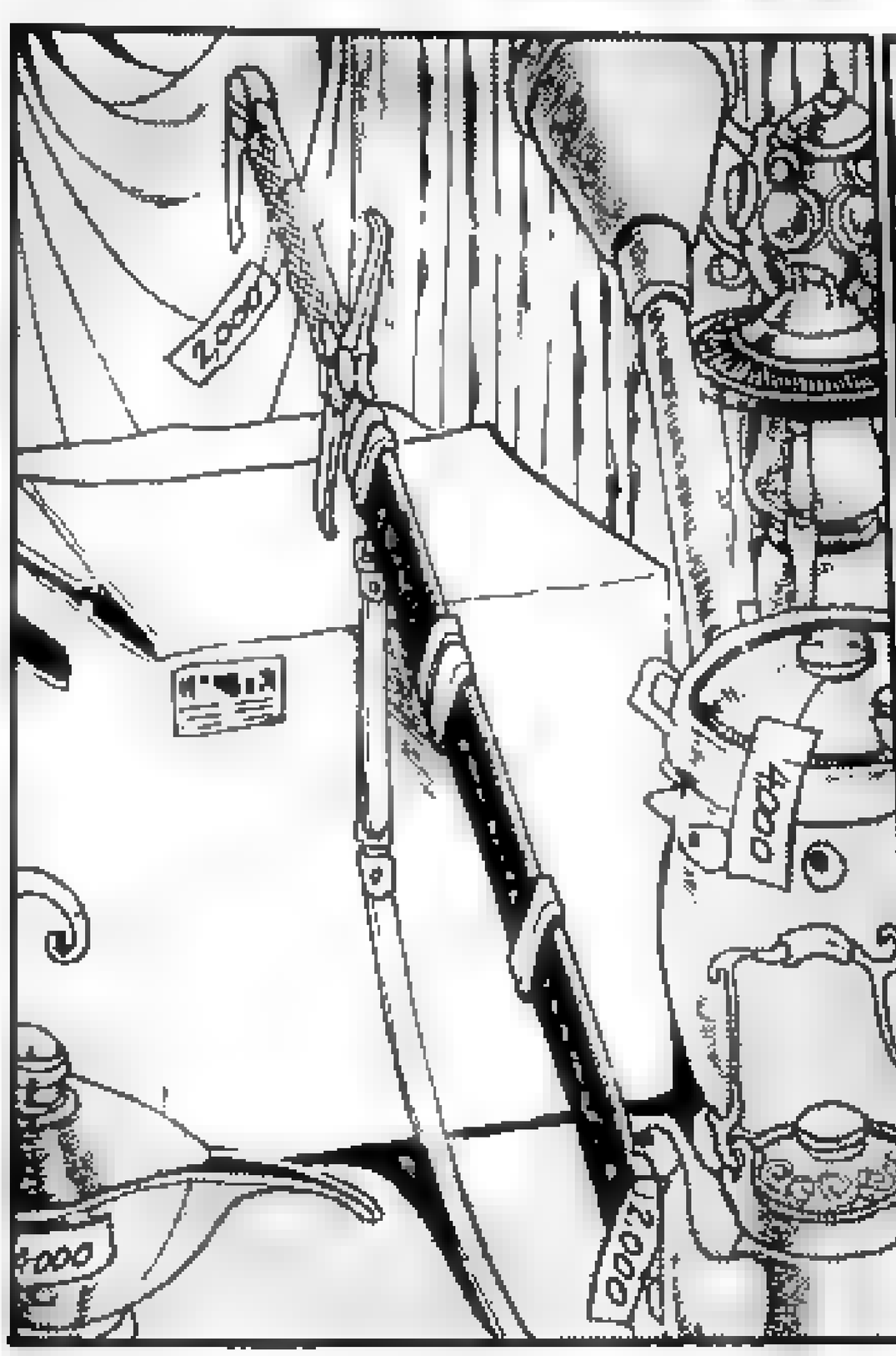
VERY CARELESS OF YOU, "CHAU ROH."
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL YOU NW-1405...?!

D...DOCTOR KOCOHM...
YOU FOOL! YOU IDIOT! SLINKING BACK HERE EMPTY-HANDED!
BUT WHAT... UMMM... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THE CURSED IMPERIALS RAIDED OUR OLD LAB.
IF IT WASN'T FOR ELENA, I'D HAVE NEVER ESCAPED.
IF YOU HAD ASSASSINATED THE EMPRESS THE WAY YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO, I WOULDN'T BE ON THE RUN LIKE THIS!
I'M S-SORRY... I JUST WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH...
HMPH! A WEAK AND SORRY FOOL, PERHAPS...
BUT NEVER FEAR, I'LL MAKE YOU STRONGER.
FOR AT LAST WE HAVE THE MOST POWERFUL ANDROID OF ALL!
SO LET US SAY YOU'VE MADE UP FOR IT.

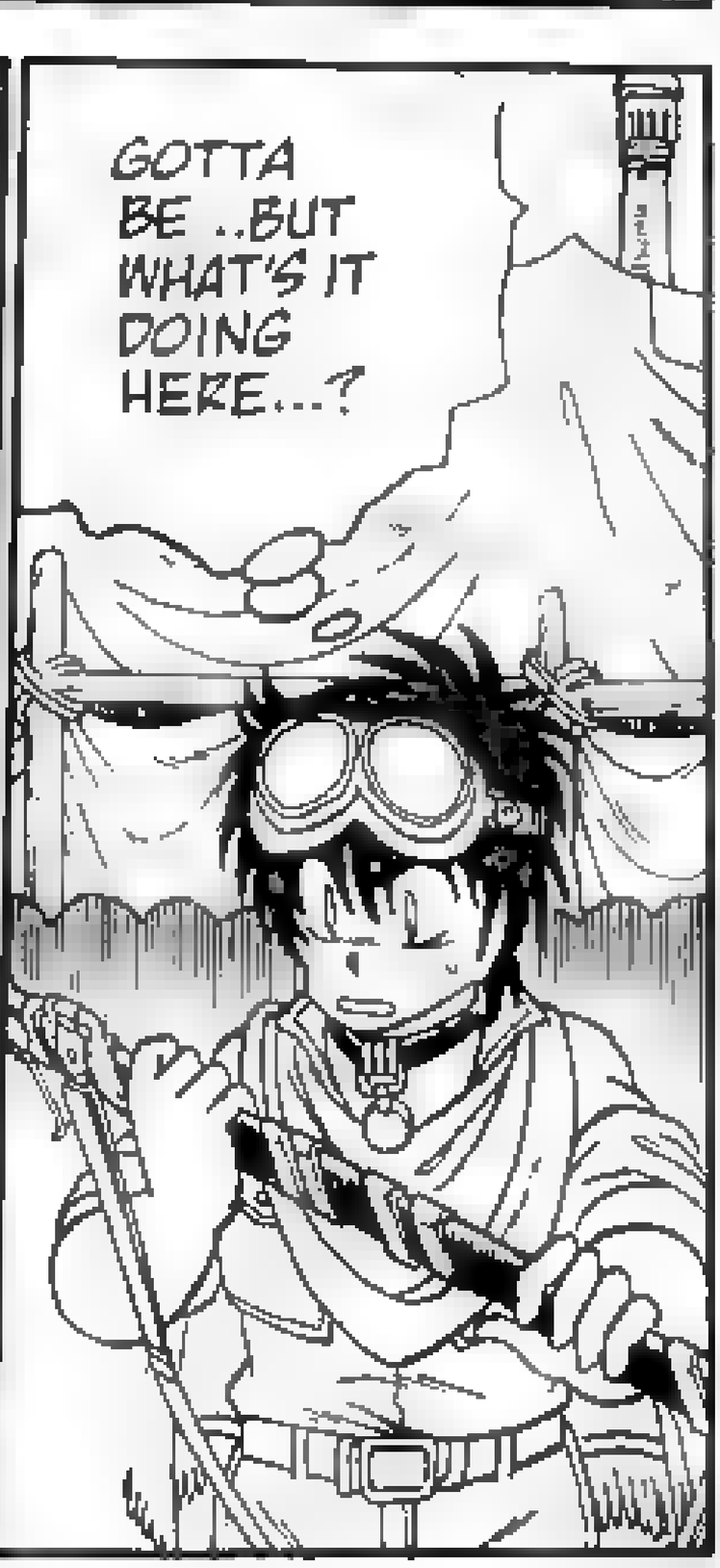
WHERE DID THOSE TWO AIRHEADS GET TO?

I'M HALF-STARVED!
ALL THE MORE REASON TO SELL THAT LITTLE PRECIOUS, YESSS?!!

JUST GIVE IT UP, WILL YA?!



HEY...MIAN'S SWORD?!!


GOTTA BE ..BUT WHAT'S IT DOING HERE...?

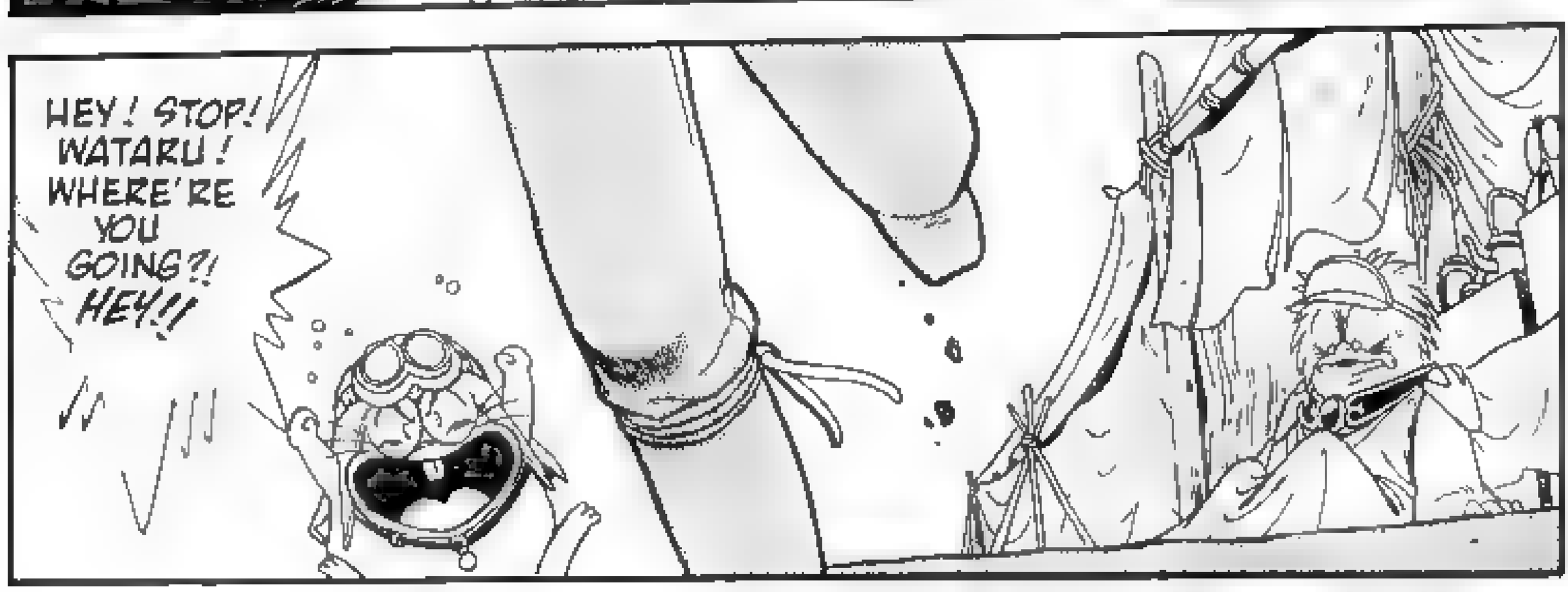
YOU LIKE IT, YOUNG PRINCE? A BARGAIN AT HALF THE PRICE.

YOU THIEVING LITTLE SWINE! WHERE'D YOU GET THIS ?!
YEEP! SIR, I ASSURE YOU--

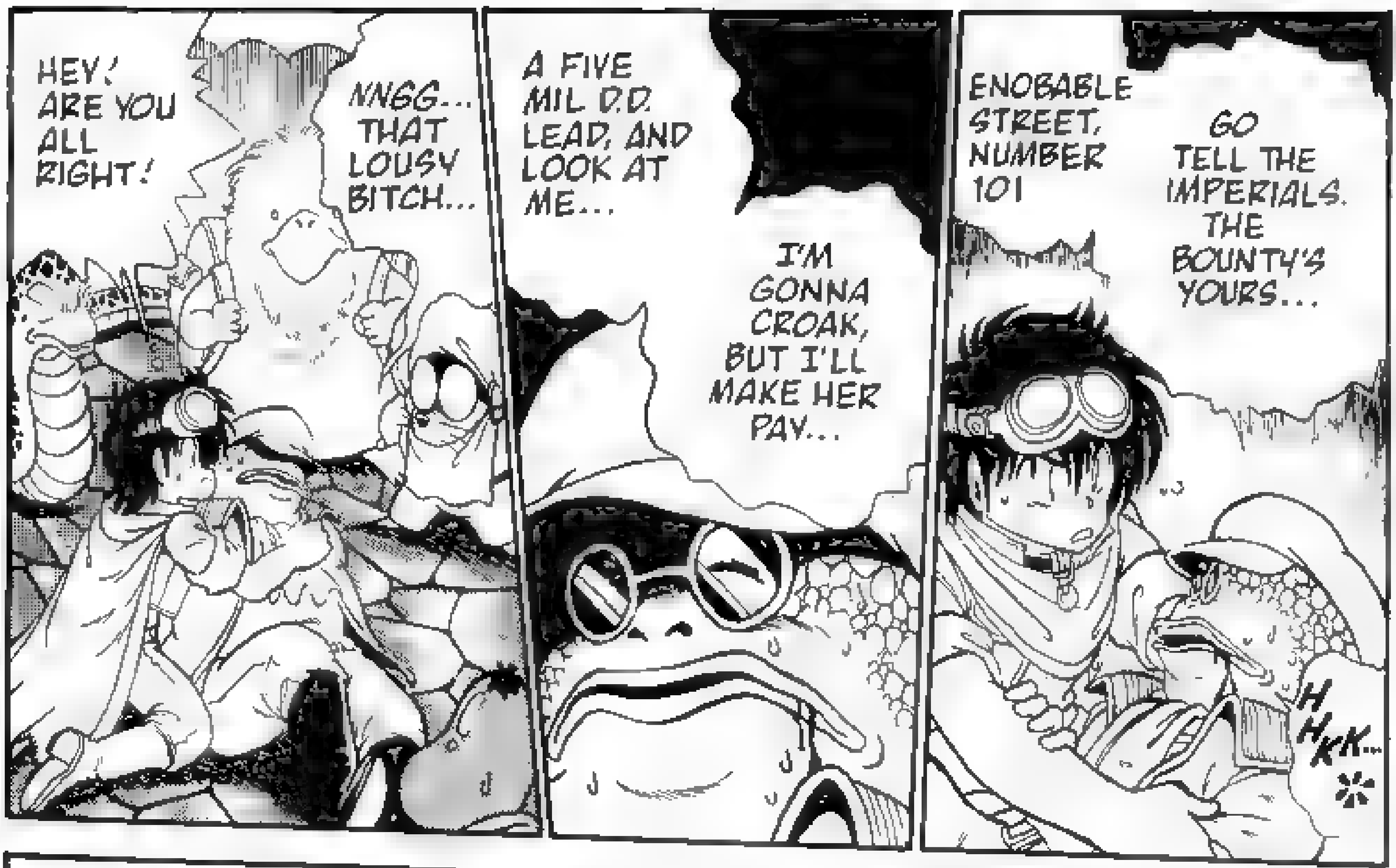
SHUT UP! YOU KNOW DAMN WELL THIS IS STOLEN PROPERTY!
I'LL CALL THE COPS !
PLEASE, NOT THAT, KIND SIR! YOU'LL RUIN ME!

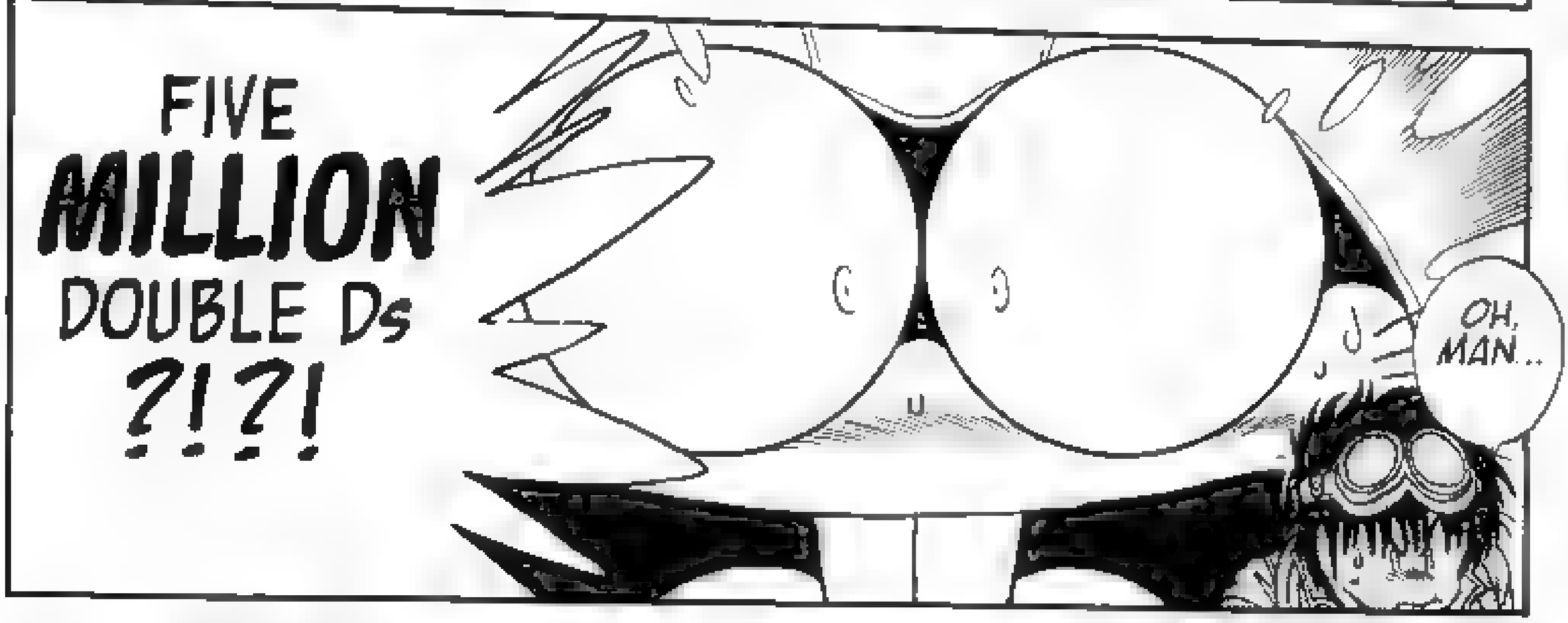
I'LL SWEAR I DIDN'T STEAL IT-- I FOUND IT!
YOU FOUND IT ?!

THIS TRUCK CAME TEARING DOWN THE ROAD, AND WHEN IT TURNED THE CORNER BY MY SHOP, THE SWORD FELL OUT THE BACK... SO I--


HEY! STOP! WATARU! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?! HEY!!

MIAN!
MIA
MIAAAN!!
DAMN IT ALL... WHERE'S SHE GONE?
MIAN CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF, I KNOW, BUT...
HUH?!
HOLY SMOKE!! WHAT TH-?!
WHOOD


HEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!
NNGG... THAT LOUSY BITCH...
A FIVE MIL D.D. LEAD, AND LOOK AT ME...
I'M GONNA CROAK, BUT I'LL MAKE HER PAY...
ENOBABLE STREET, NUMBER 101
GO TELL THE IMPERIALS. THE BOUNTY'S YOURS...
HKK...


FIVE MILLION DOUBLE Ds ?!?!
OH, MAN...

BABO TO THE RESCUE !!
WHOOOSH
HANG IN THERE, PAL! DON'T--
MAN, OH, MAN. WONDER WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT..?
WAIT A SEC--THE IMPERIAL ARMY'S AFTER MIAN, RIGHT..?
WHAT IF...

THAT MAN. YOU TOOK CARE OF HIM?

YES, DOCTOR. HE RAN, BUT NOT AS FAST AS MY KNIFE.

HE'S JUST THE FIRST...IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY SNIFF US OUT.

THEN WE SHOULD HURRY.

BUT WE FINALLY GOT THE TORIS. WE HAVE TO TEST IT, NO MATTER WHAT.

101 ENOBABLE...

hahh

hahh

MUST BE IT?

DR. KOCOHM! ANOTHER INTRUDER!

WHO IS IT?!

A TEENAGE BOY, I THINK.

OH, NO! WATARU!

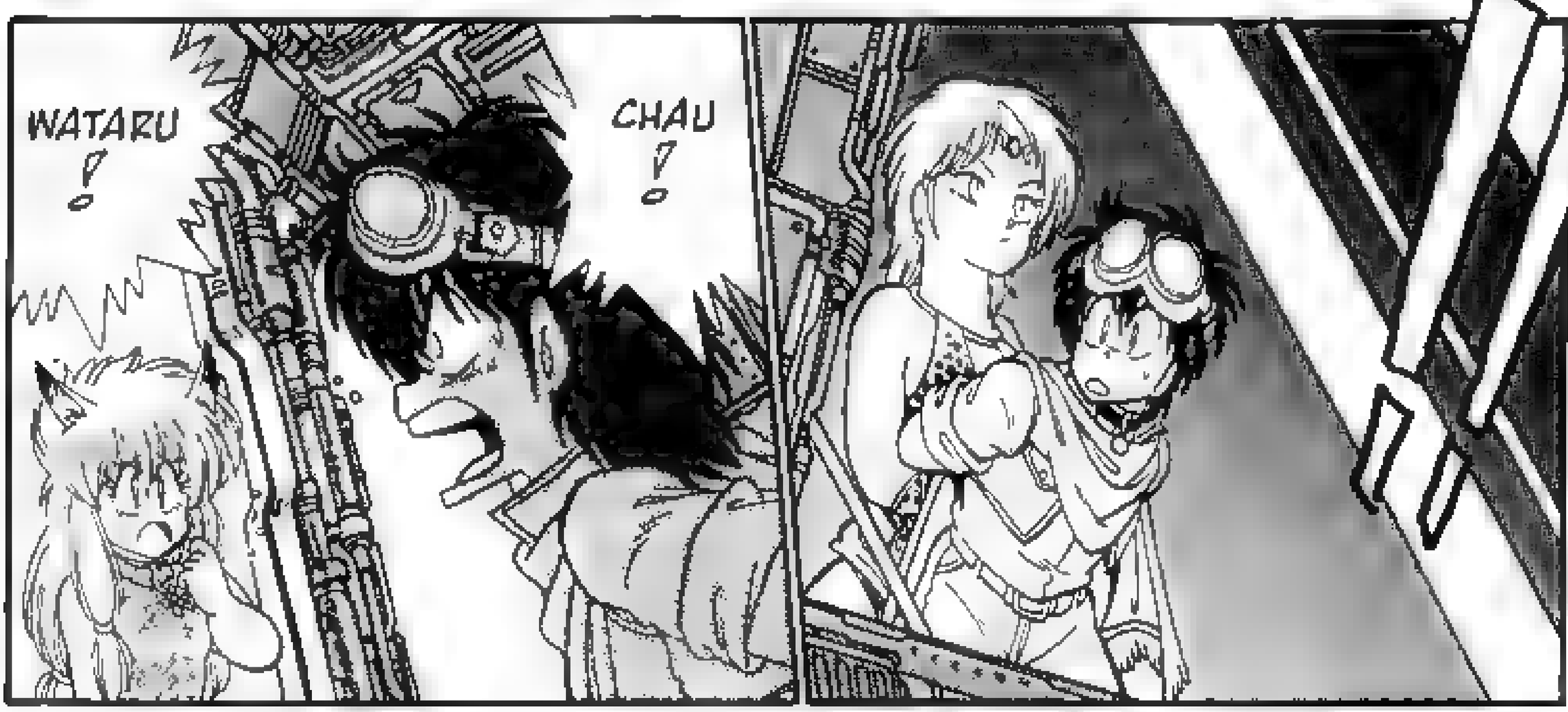
I WILL TERMINATE HIM, DOCTOR

WAIT, *PLEASE!* HE'S NOT WITH THE EMPIRE !!

WHAT'S THIS, CHAU? YOU KNOW HIM?

YES, SIR. HIS NAME IS *WATARU*, ONE OF MIAN'S COMPANIONS.

IS HE NOW? IN THAT CASE, HE MIGHT ENJOY SEEING MY RESEARCH... BEFORE HE DIES.



MIAN
MIAN
OH, STOP IT, BOY! I VE SUPRESSED HER HIGHER FUNCTIONS-- SHE WON'T WAKE UP.
BAM BAM

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? ARE YOU SOME KIND OF ROBOPHILE ?!

A "ROBOPHILE"...? HOW AMUSING. NO, YOUNG MAN, I AM A MAN OF SCIENCE.

I AM DR KOCOHM !

KOCOHM THE GENIUS! THE WORLD'S GREATEST ANDROID DESIGNER!

BULLSHIT!

WORLD'S DIRTIEST OLD MAN, MORE LIKE IT.

WHAT KINDA SICKO ARE YOU, ANYWAY!? YOU AND YOUR PILE OF SEX DOLLS!

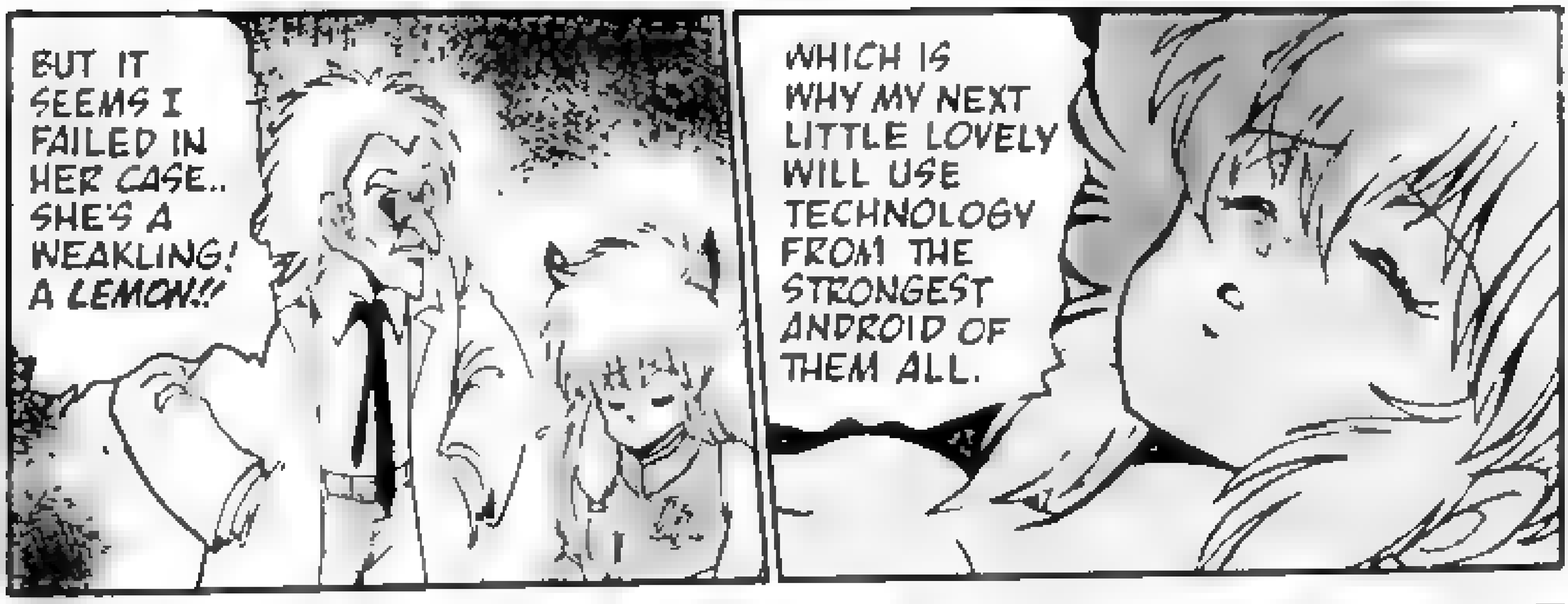
YOU IMPUDENT LITTLE PUP! DON'T YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SEX DOLL AND A HIGH-TECH KOCOHM ANDROID?!

YOUR LITTLE FRIEND CHAU IS ONE OF MY CREATIONS!

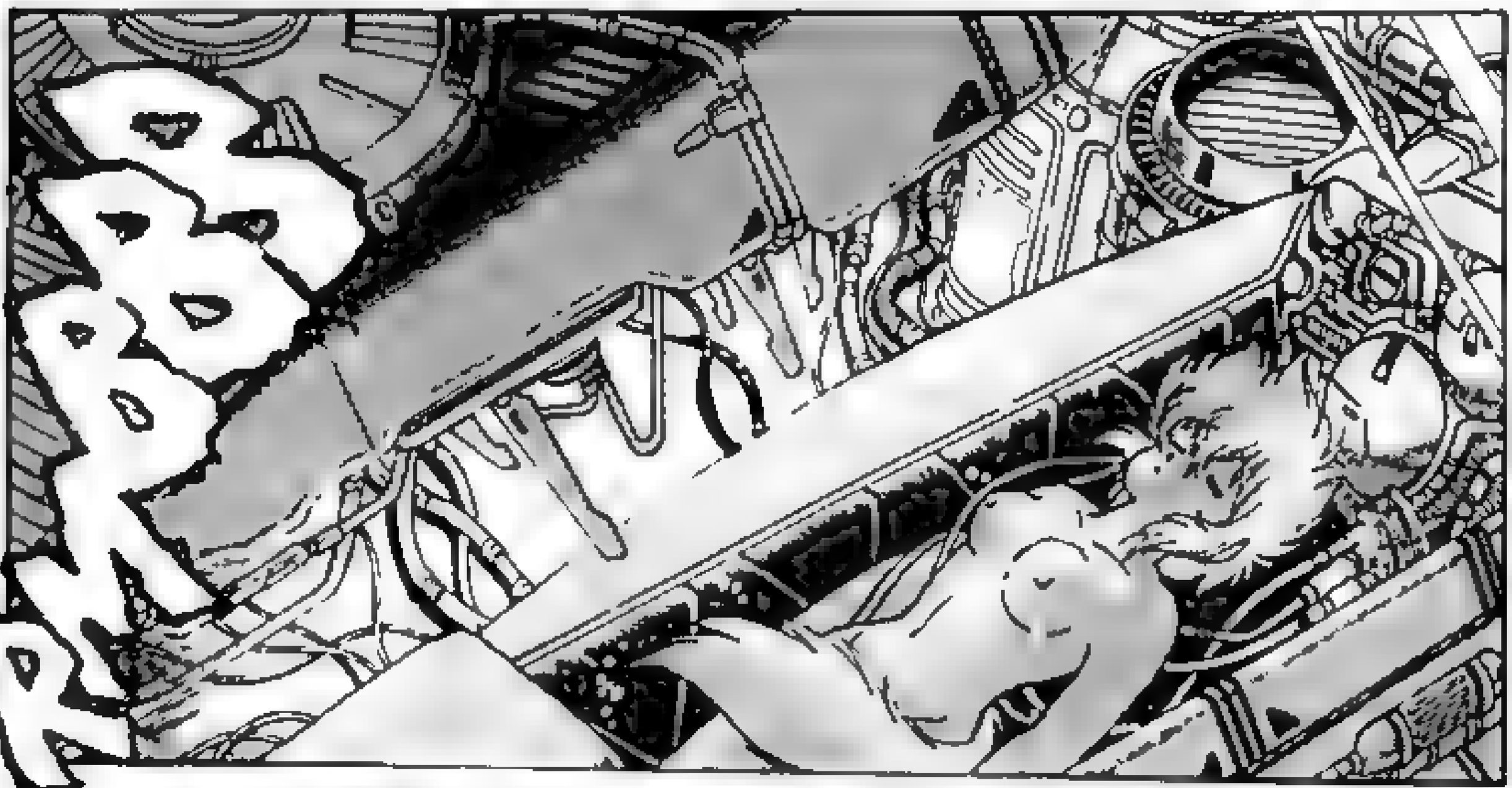
WHAT?! YOU, CHAU? YOU'RE AN ANDROID?

PERFECT, IS SHE NOT?

LIKE ALL MY CREATIONS, A WORK OF ART! OR SO I THOUGHT...


BUT IT SEEMS I FAILED IN HER CASE.. SHE'S A WEAKLING! A LEMON!!
WHICH IS WHY MY NEXT LITTLE LOVELY WILL USE TECHNOLOGY FROM THE STRONGEST ANDROID OF THEM ALL.

OH, DON'T GO GETTING ANY FOOLISH IDEAS
ELENA CAN STILL TIE YOU INTO KNOTS.


PUT!

AND NOW, AT LAST, I WILL SEE HOW THIS GIRL IS MADE THE MOST POWERFUL ANDROID EVER BUILT!
I DON'T GET IT WHY IS THE EMPIRE TRYING TO KILL YOU?
HEH...

I USED TO BE A SPECIALIST IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, SERVING HER MAJESTY IN THE IMPERIAL WEAPONRY LABS.

ONE DAY WE RECEIVED DIRECT ORDERS, FROM SHION HERSELF! "REPRODUCE THIS," SHE SAID.

IT WAS A SMALL, PERFECTLY BLACK SPHERE MADE OF NO MATERIAL KNOWN TO MAN.

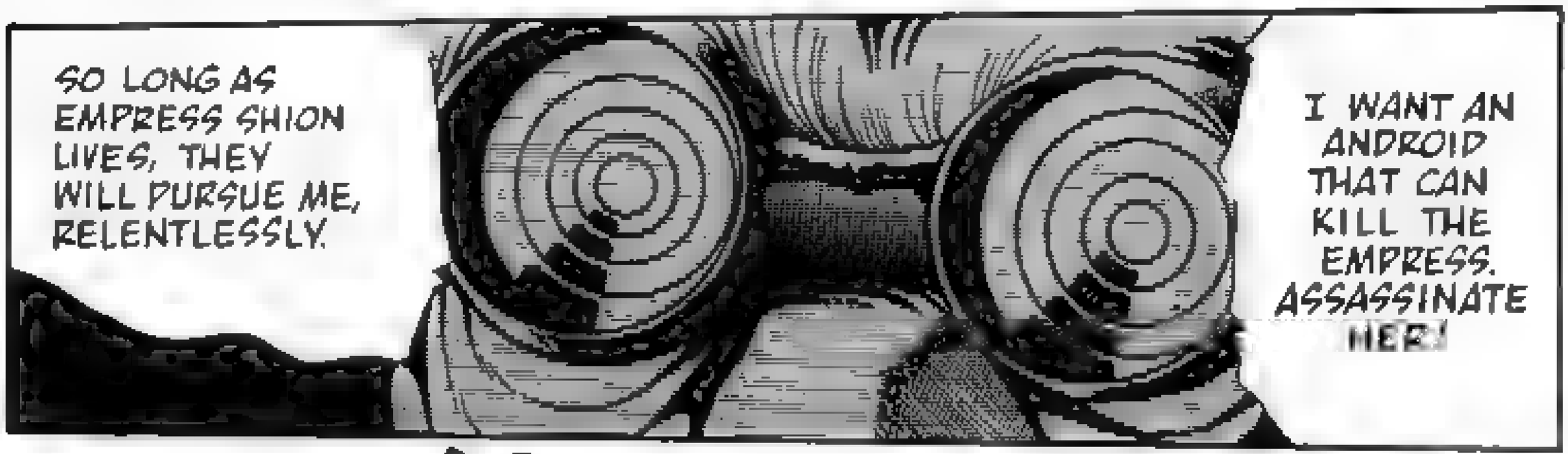
IT WAS AN ALIEN OBJECT, ALMOST BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION.

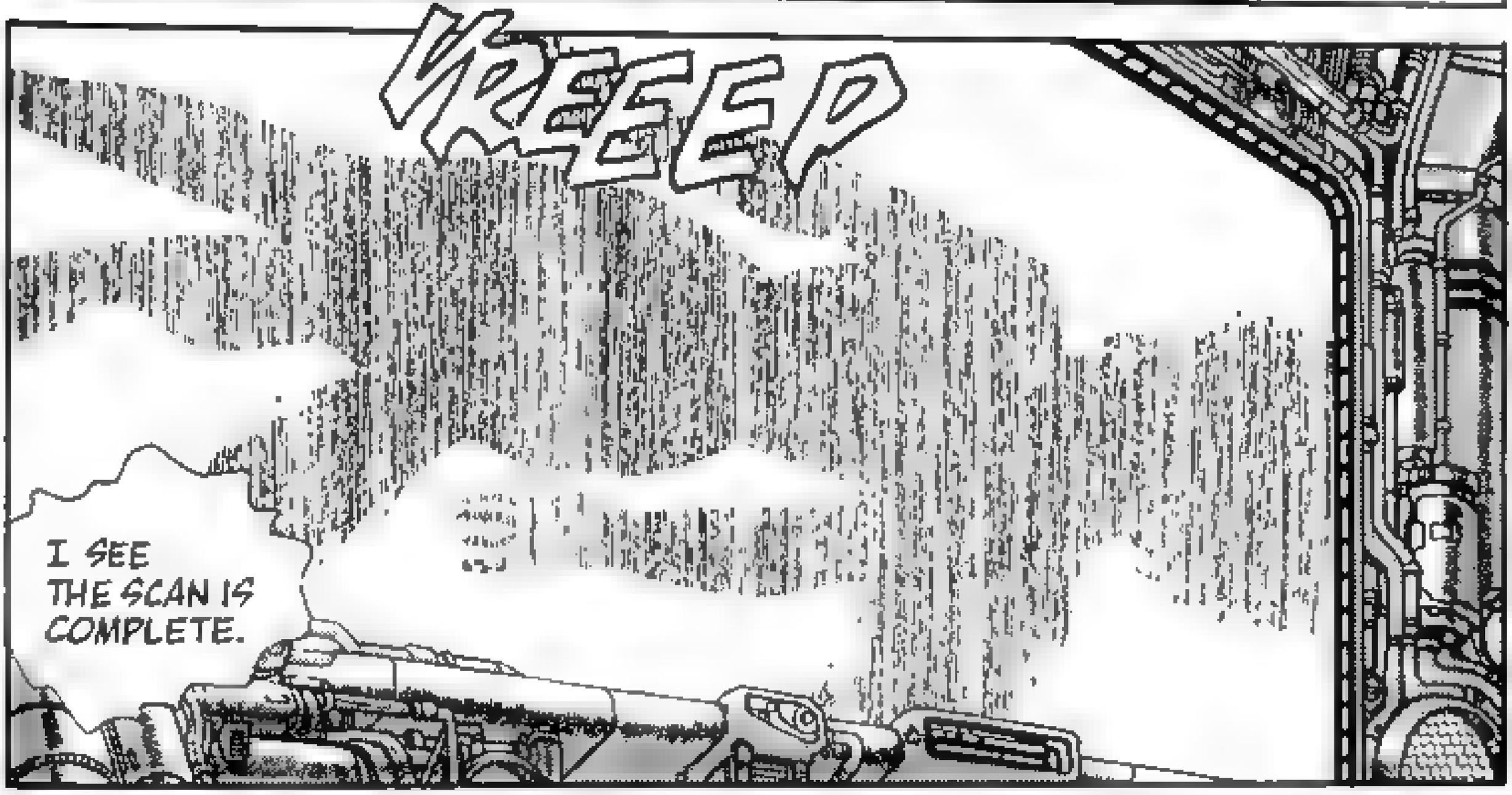
A BLACK SPHERE ?!

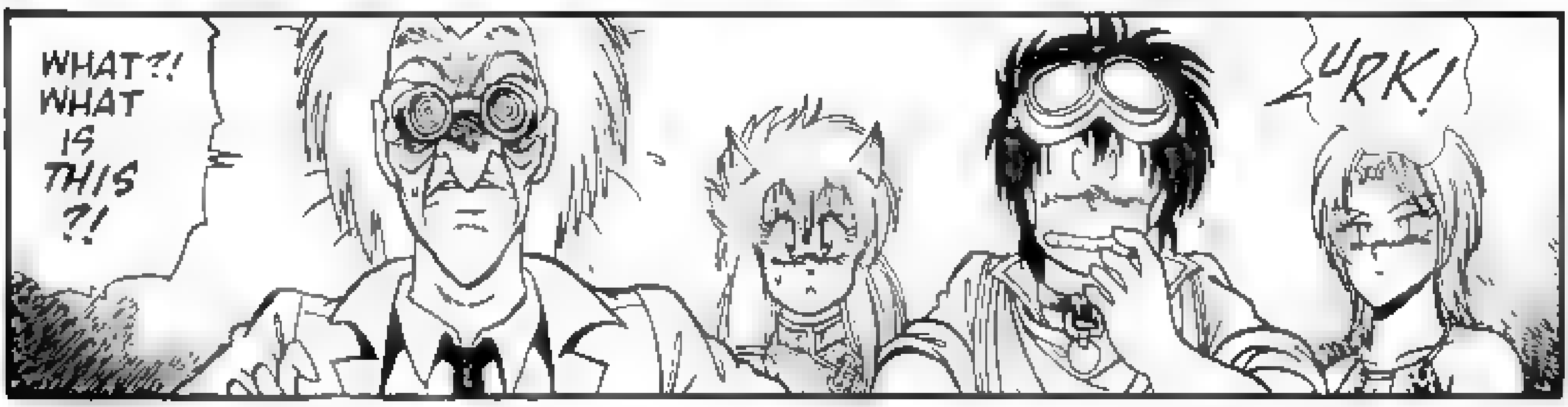
WE FOLLOWED ORDERS, USING HER DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS, COPYING WHAT WE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND. AND WHEN IT WAS FINALLY FINISHED...

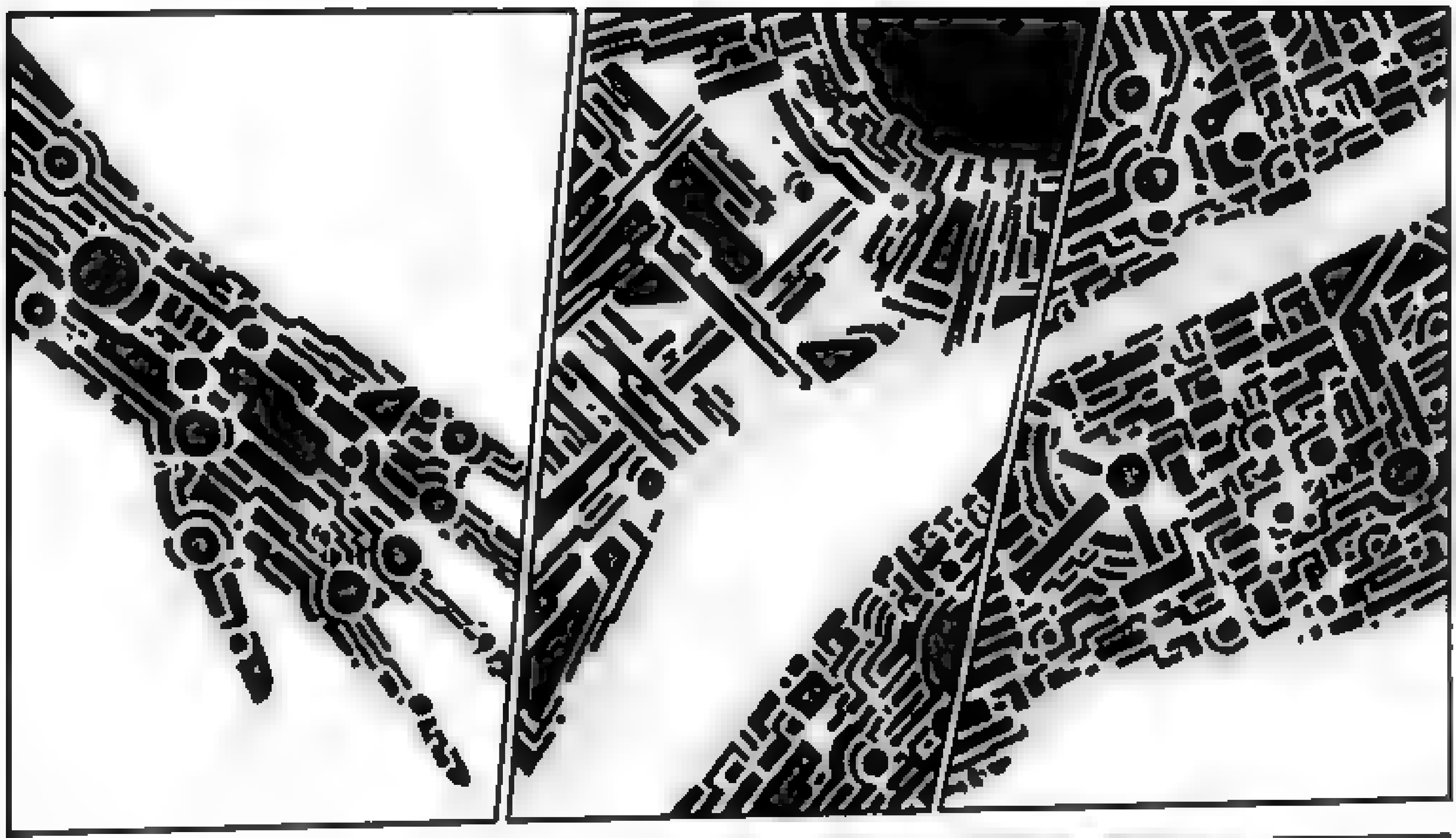
THEY CAME FOR US...

YET SOMEHOW OUR DESPERATE HERO, THE COURAGEOUS DR. KOCOHM, FOUGHT FREE OF THE TREACHEROUS IMPERIALS AND ESCAPED TO FIGHT AGAIN!!
THE END
SO WHY'D THEY TRY TO EXECUTE YOU?
NO DOUBT I HAD LEARNED TOO MANY OF THE EMPIRE'S SECRETS.

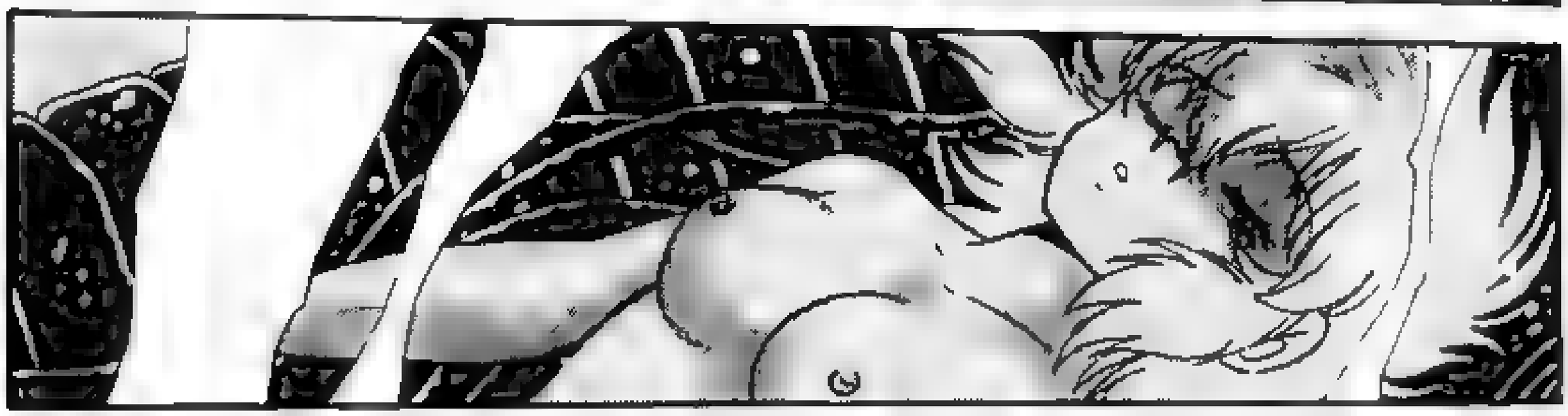

SO LONG AS EMPRESS SHION LIVES, THEY WILL PURSUE ME, RELENTLESSLY.
I WANT AN ANDROID THAT CAN KILL THE EMPRESS. ASSASSINATE HER!

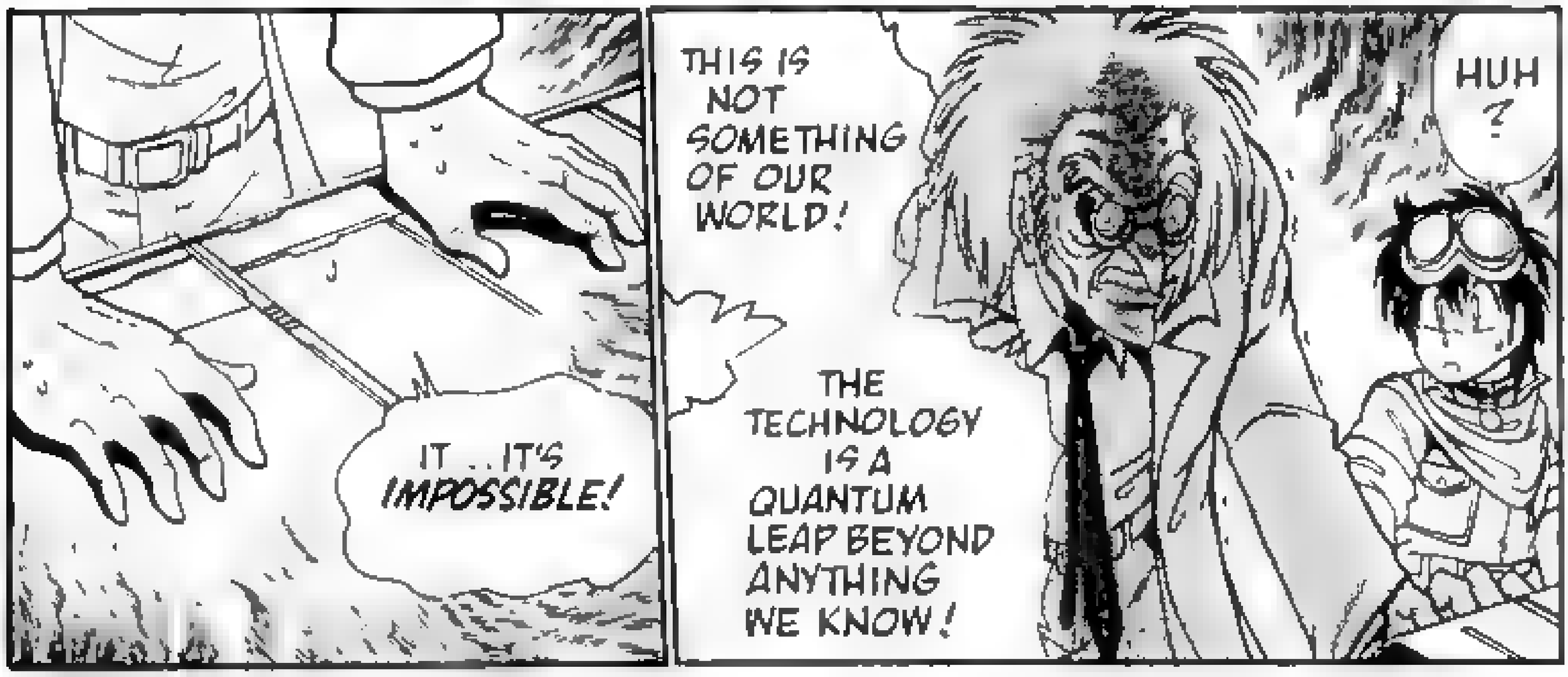

WREEP
I SEE THE SCAN IS COMPLETE.


WHAT?! WHAT IS THIS?!
URK!



MY GOD WHO-OR WHAT-COULD HAVE MADE HER?
DON'T ASK ME..?




IT...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THIS IS NOT SOMETHING OF OUR WORLD!
HUH?
THE TECHNOLOGY IS A QUANTUM LEAP BEYOND ANYTHING WE KNOW!

I MEANT TO LEARN FROM THE TORIS MODEL, LEARN WAYS TO MAKE CHAU STRONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY SHION. BUT *THIS!* THIS IS BEYOND EVEN *MY* ABILITY!

SHE'S NOT OF OUR WORLD! I CANNOT BELIEVE MEN MADE HER!!

IT'S THE SAME AS WHEN I WORKED ON THAT DAMNED SPHERE!!

GEE, YOU MEAN THIS THING?

!!

AM I GOING MAD ?!

HOW DID YOU GET THAT ?!

THE *EMPRESS* GAVE IT TO ME, GRAMPS.

WHAT ?!

SHE WHAT ?!?

YOU . YOU'VE *MET* EMPRESS SHION ?!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY WOULD SHE GIVE YOU THE SPHERE? THE SPHERE I MADE...?
SHE SAID TO STICK IT INTO MIAN'S BREASTPLATE.
SO I GUESS IT'S SOME SORTA ANDROID PART, HUH?
HEY, WANT TO STICK IT IN AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS ?!
FOOL! WHO KNOWS WHAT DREADFUL CONSE-QUENCES... HMM...
DREADFUL CON--
KRASH
DON'T MOVE, KOCOHM !
BLAM BLAM BLAM

YOU GAVE US A LOT OF TROUBLE, OLD MAN.
DAMNED MAD SCIENTIST!
...!
CAPTAIN! OVER HERE!
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT TH--!
ISN'T THAT MIAN TORIS?!
AND SOMEBODY'S GONE AND PUT HER TO SLEEP FOR US!
HOT DAMN-- THIS IS GREAT!
CART HER BACK TO HQ.
AND BURN THIS PLACE TO THE GROUND!

KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF HER!

CAPTAIN!

CHAU!

WHAT THE HELL IS SHE?!

AN ANDROID? OR REAL?!

DON'T ASK QUESTIONS-- TORCH HER!

GYAAAA!
CHAU...

MIAN !

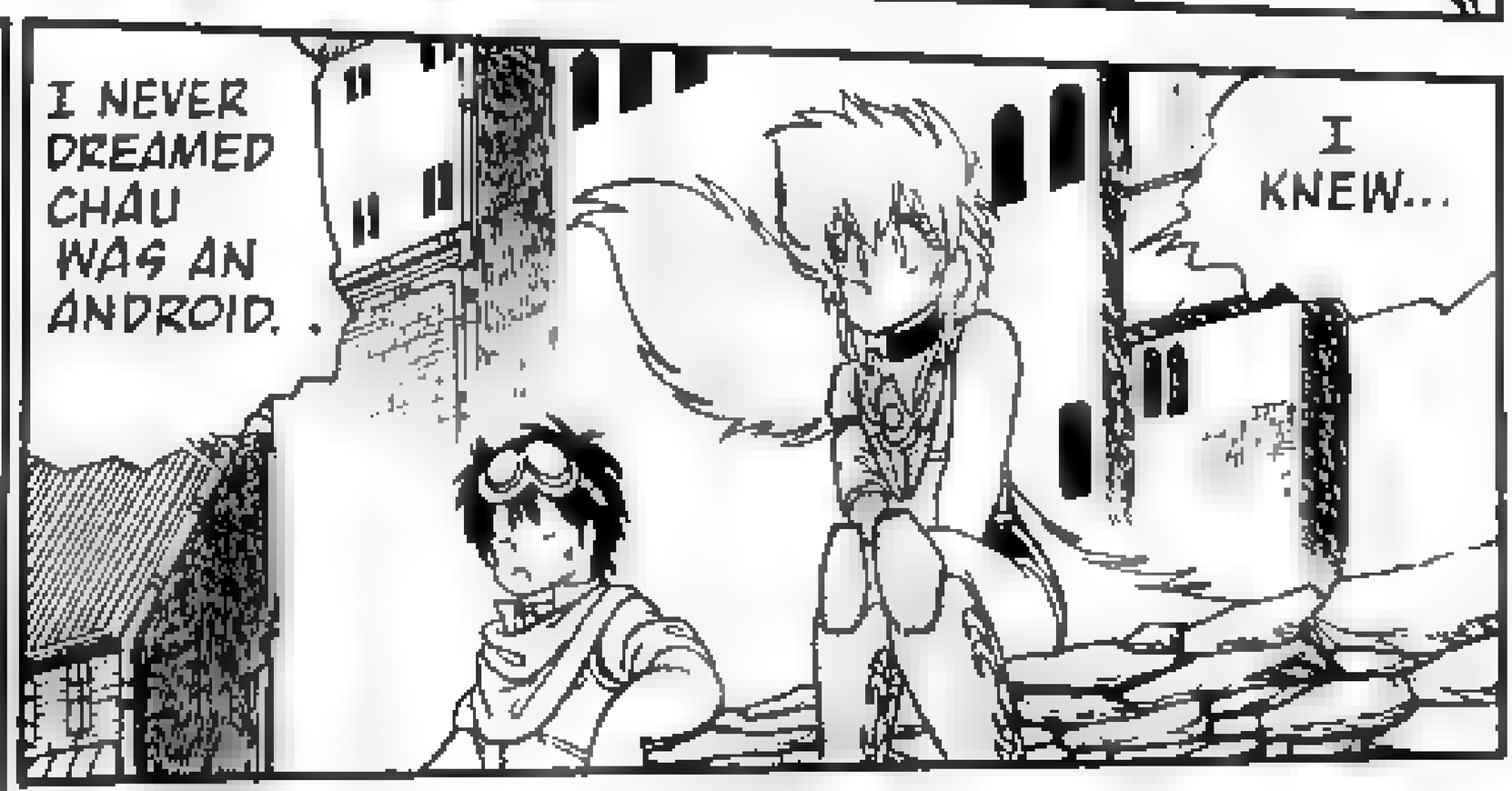
DAMMIT, MIAN ! WAKE UP !!

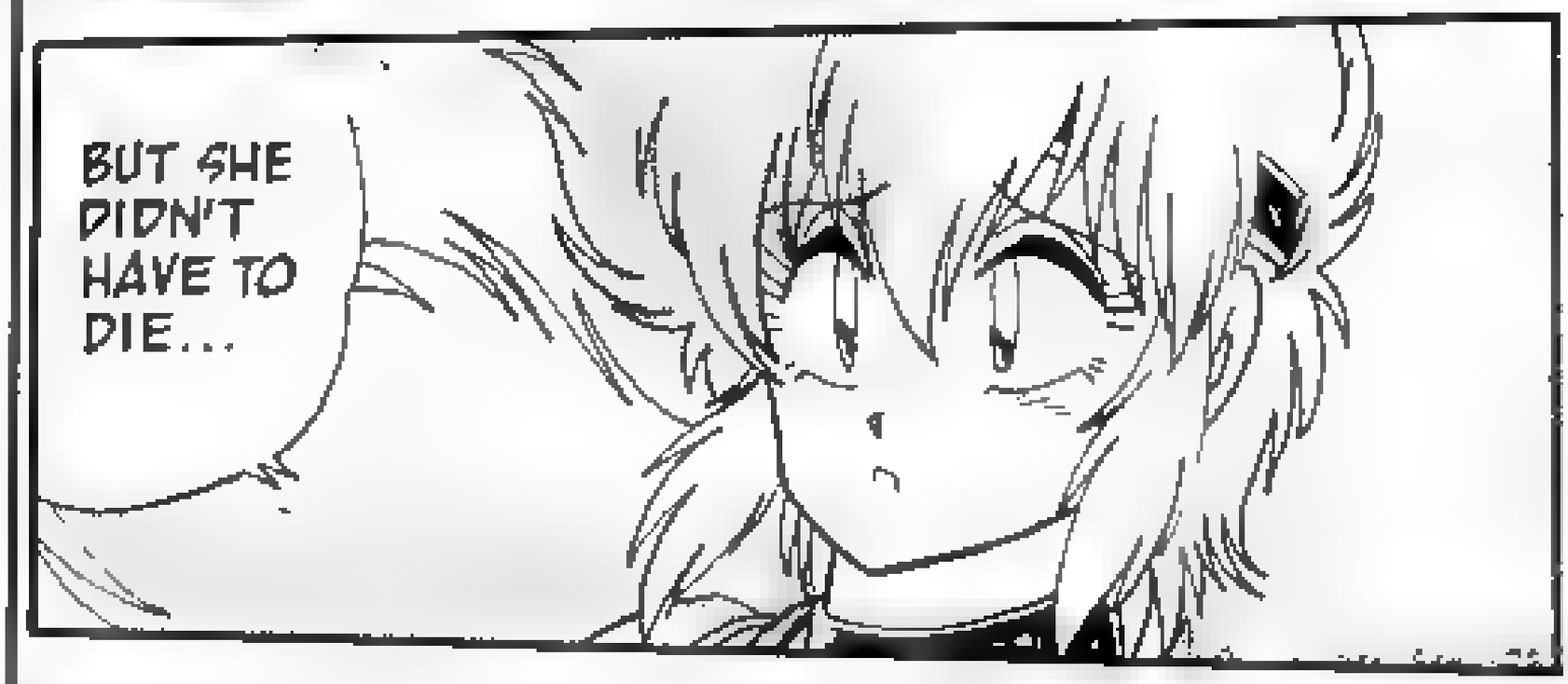
MIAN !

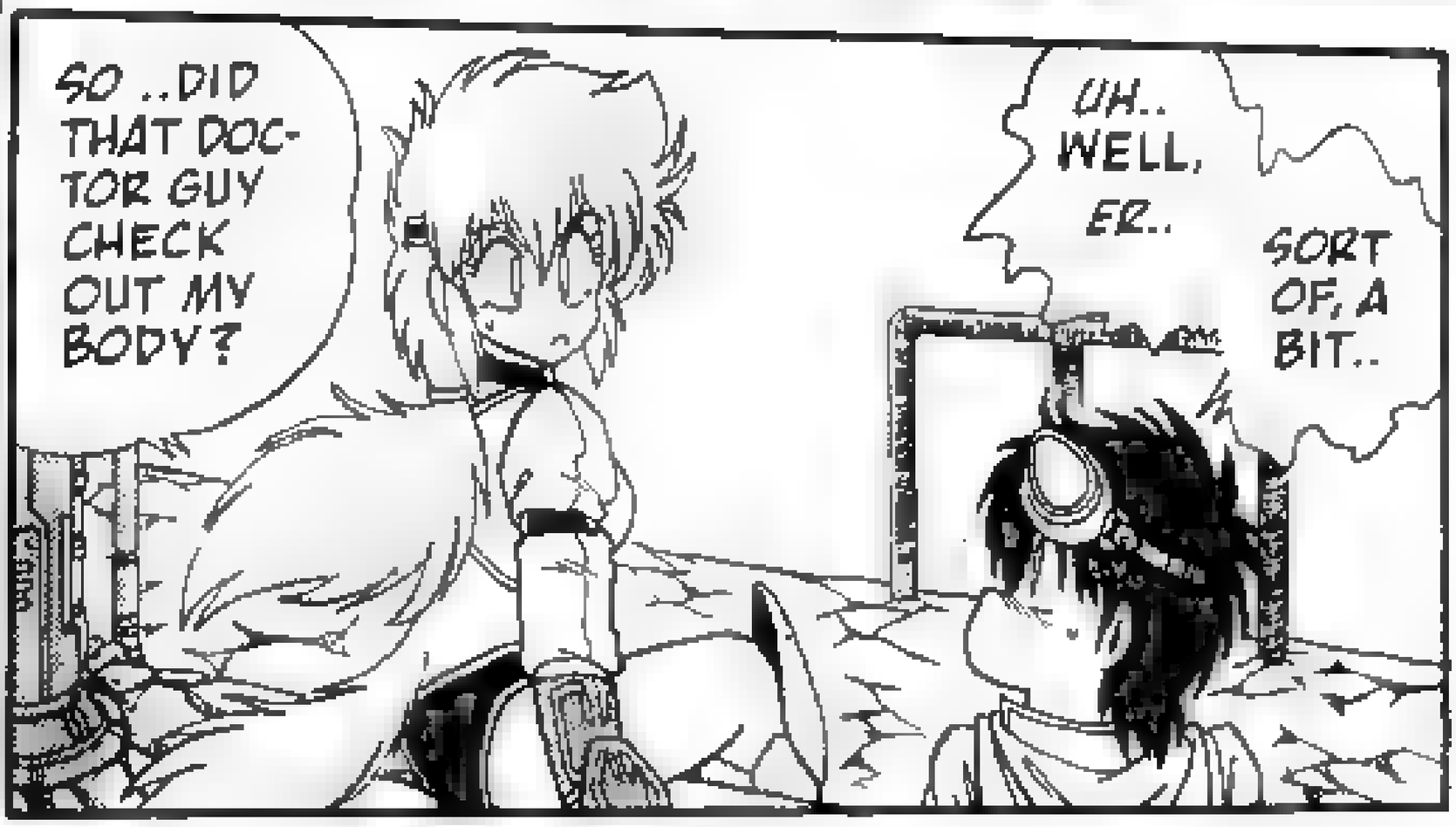
YOU HEAR ME, MIAN ?!

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, YOU FILTHY PERVERT ?!!

LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE.



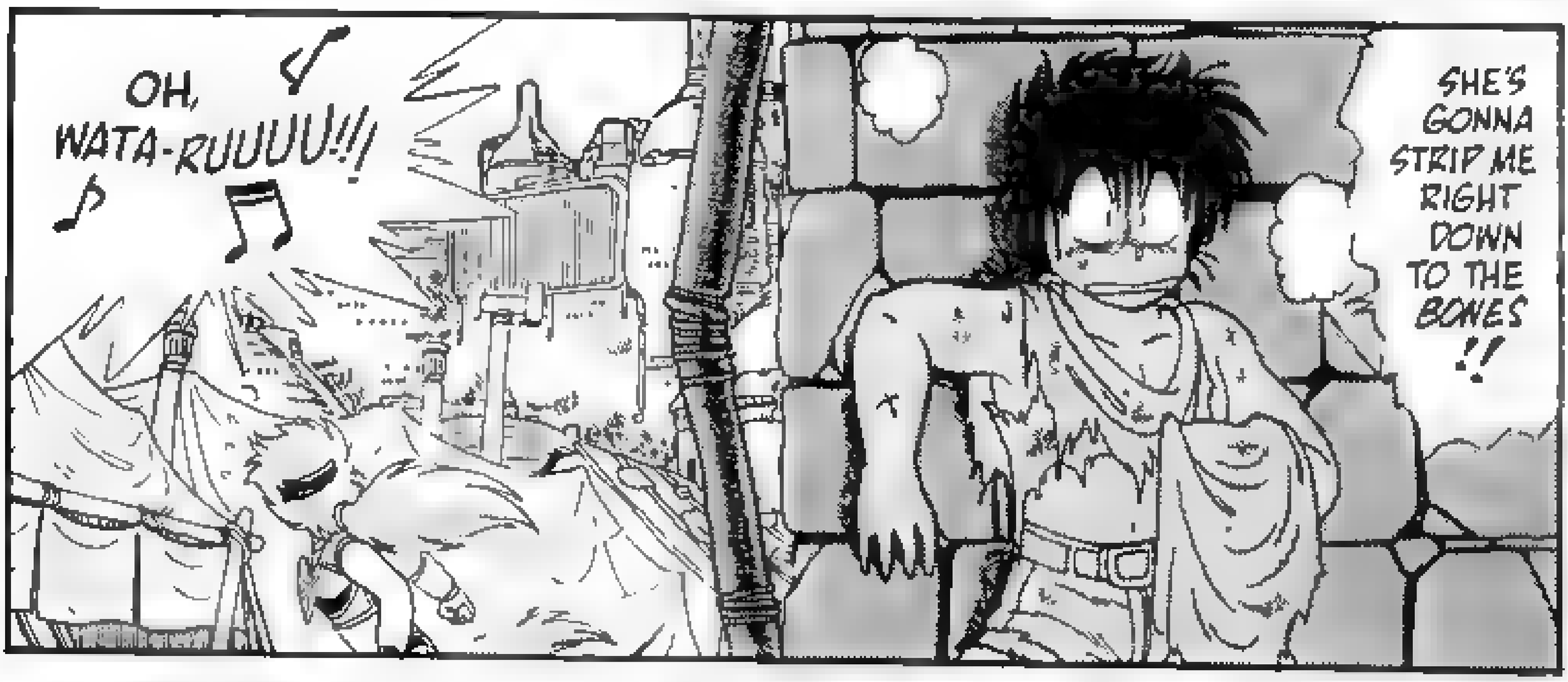




OH, GROSS. THE THOUGHT OF SOME CREEPY OLD GEEZER PAWING ME...

HEY, WAIT A SEC !!
YOU JUST STOOD THERE GAWPING WHILE YOUR MASTER WAS HUMILIATED ?!
WELL, WHAT COULD I DO, HUH? BESIDES, I WAS CURIOUS--

"CURIOUS"...?! CURIOUS?!! YOU DROOLING LITTLE CREEP! I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE STRIPPED NAKED, YOU CRETIN!!
RIPPRIPPRIP
STOP IT! CUT IT OUT!
HELLLP! SEX MANIAC !!


OH, WATA-RUUUU!!!
SHE'S GONNA STRIP ME RIGHT DOWN TO THE BONES !!

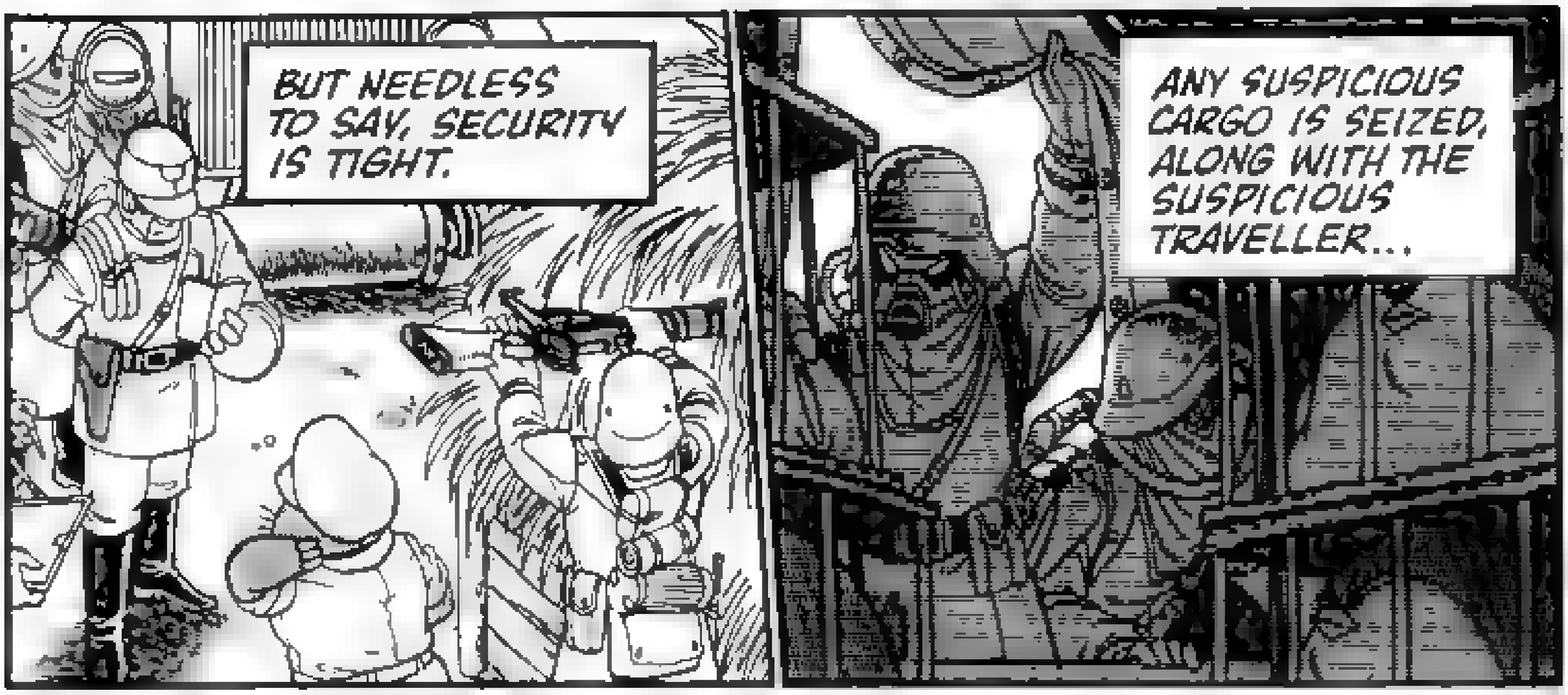
WHAT?! THE IMPERIAL OFFICER WHO CAN AUTHORIZE THE REWARD PAYMENT DIDN'T COME BACK FROM THE RAID?!
FOOL...
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HOURS! IT'S FRAUD! CHICANERY! A FILTHY SCAM!!

31
PLAYERS DEMAND SALARY HIKES!
LOCK THE BUMS OUT!

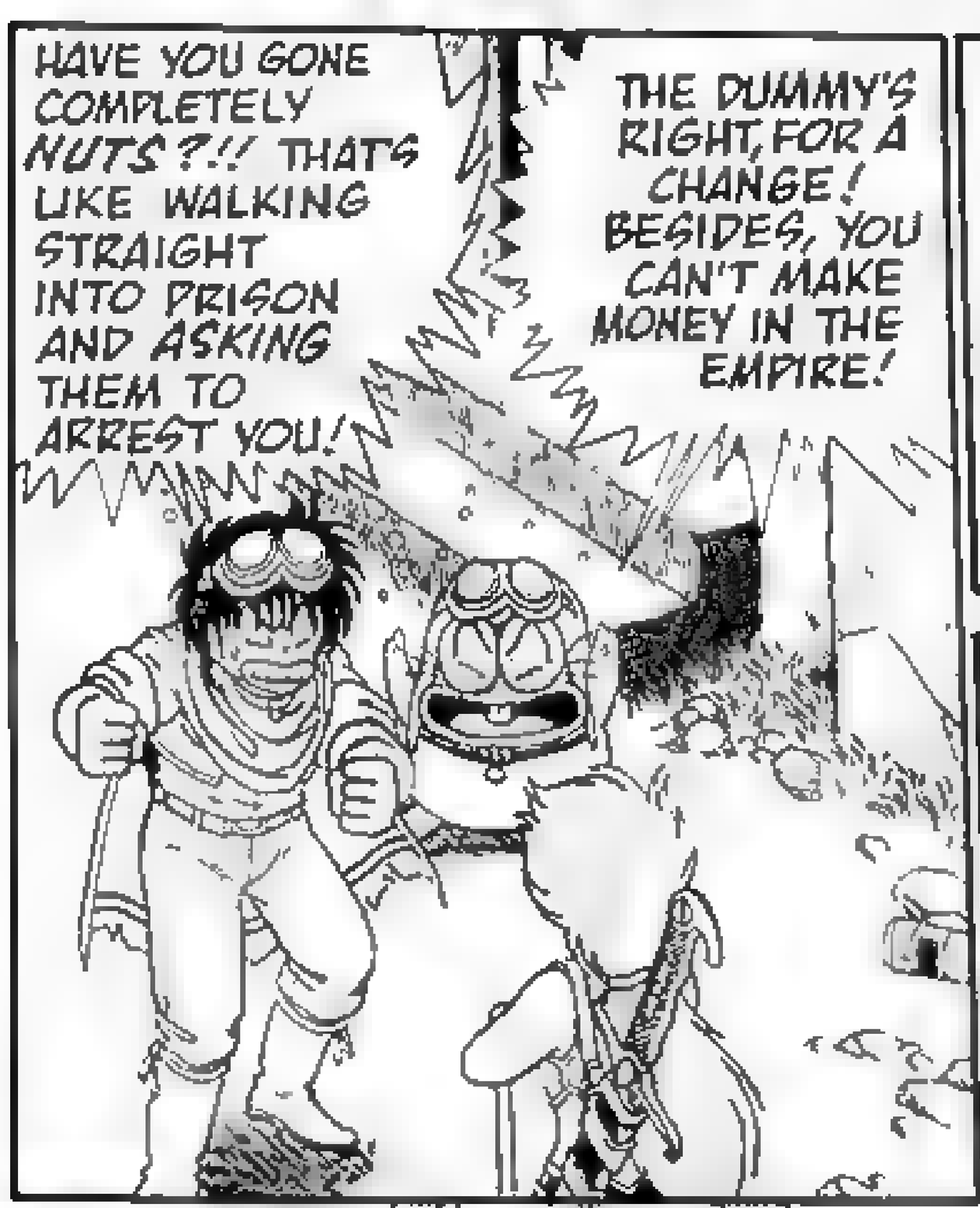
VRRMMMM VRRMM
GRRRGRRRRR
HEH HEH HEH

TO THE PEOPLE OF HELGEBARD, IT'S SIMPLY KNOWN AS THE GUSTAV LINE-- THE FAMOUS BORDER FORTRESS STRETCHING FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES BETWEEN THE HELGEBARD EMPIRE AND THE TEEMING MASSES OF ITS OCCUPIED COLONIES.

AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED OF A MIGHTY EMPIRE, THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC CROSSING THE GUSTAV LINE IS ENORMOUS... AS ARE THE TRAFFIC JAMS.



YOU WANT TO BREAK THROUGH THE LINE AND SNEAK INTO THE EMPIRE?!!


HAVE YOU GONE COMPLETELY NUTS?!! THATS LIKE WALKING STRAIGHT INTO PRISON AND ASKING THEM TO ARREST YOU!
THE DUMMY'S RIGHT, FOR A CHANGE! BESIDES, YOU CAN'T MAKE MONEY IN THE EMPIRE!

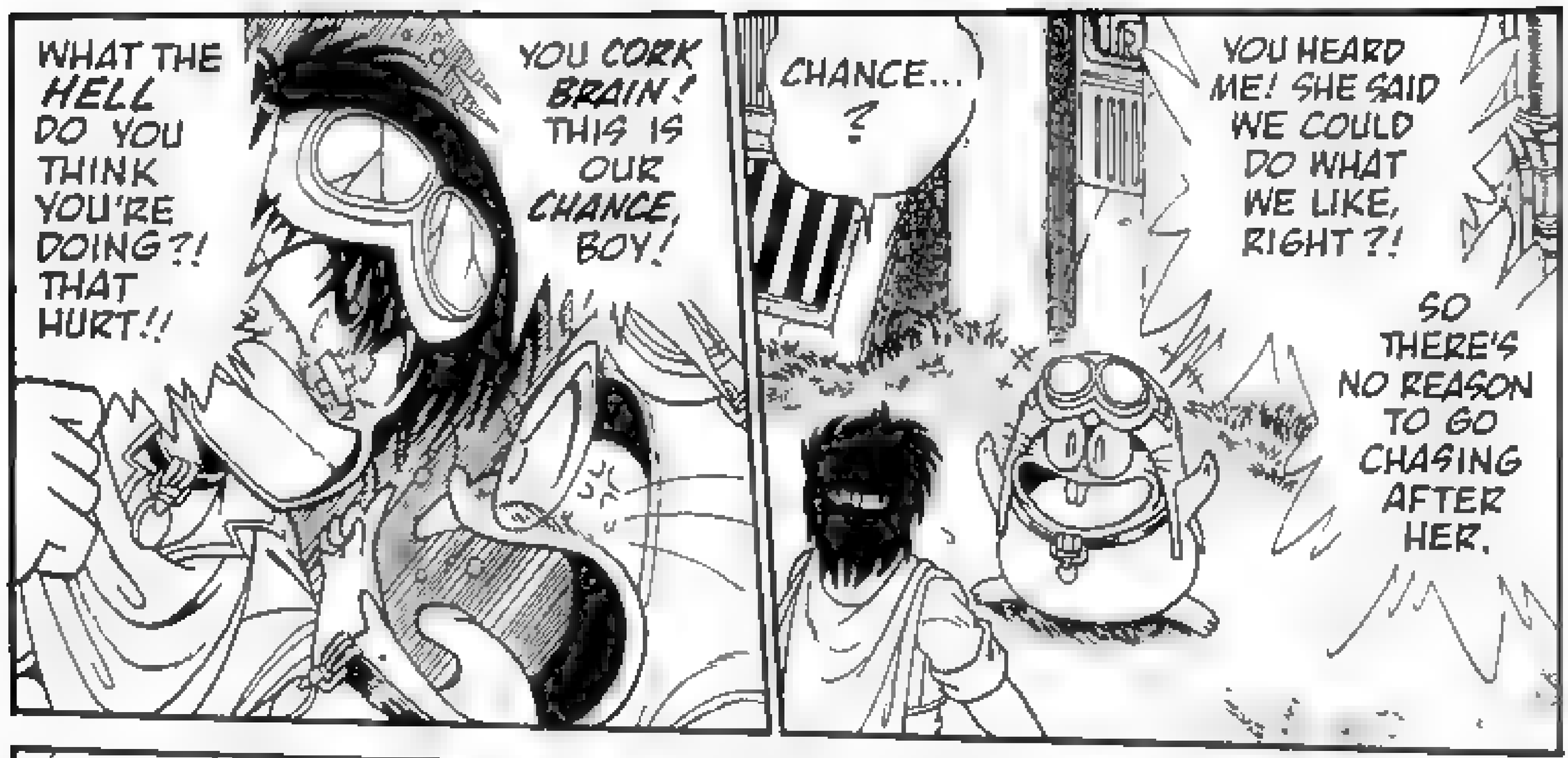
ANYWAY, I'M OUT. NO WAY!
I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE.

RIGHT??
I SEE..

HUH?
THAT'S OKAY WITH ME.

YOU TWO CAN DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
EH?

DAMN... THIS IS WEIRD. THAT'S NOT THE USUAL MIAN RESPONSE.
MAKES ME FEEL SORTA CREEPY.
SOMETHING'S GOING ON WITH MIAN, DAMN HER.
SHE JUST GETS GLOOMIER AND GLOOMIER...
SOMETIMES SHE JUST ZONES OUT, LIKE SHE'S GOT SOMETHING BIG ON HER MIND...
AND JUST A WHILE AGO, SHE LOOKED SO SAD AND LONELY...
I'VE GOT TO GO FIND HER!!
....
BLRK!
FWACK

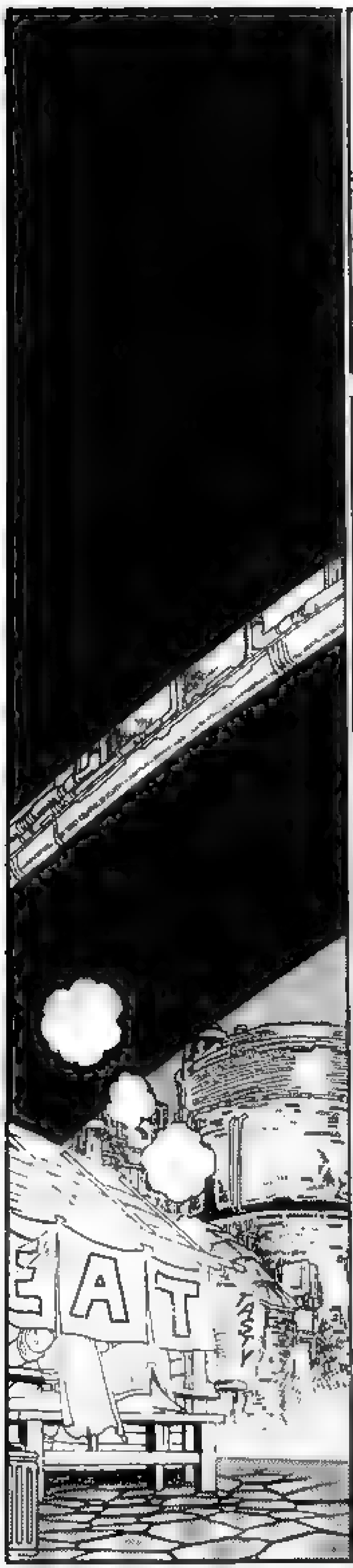

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! THAT HURT!!
YOU CORK BRAIN! THIS IS OUR CHANCE, BOY!
CHANCE...?
YOU HEARD ME! SHE SAID WE COULD DO WHAT WE LIKE, RIGHT?!
SO THERE'S NO REASON TO GO CHASING AFTER HER.

WELL, YEAH, MAYBE SO. BUT...
NO BUTS ABOUT IT, BUB! WE ARE FREE MEN!
FINALLY, WE CAN MAKE SOME REAL MONEY!

HEY, THAT BIMBO IS BAD FOR BUSINESS.
GOTTA MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES!
COME ON! I'LL STAND YOU A BREW! TO FREEDOM!
BUT...I REALLY OUGHT TO...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, KID?! YOU FALLIN' IN LOVE?!
YEAH, AS IF!! WITH THAT CRAZY BITCH ROBOT?!
C'MON-- LET'S GO GET PLASTERED!!
THAT'S M'BOY.

WHSSH H H H H


AT

HEY, COOKIE! ANOTHER PLATE O' HANPEN!
COMIN RIGHT UP.
CONFOUND IT, WATARU! DRINK UP! YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR DOG JUST DIED!
YEAH. . OKAY..
WE'RE FREE, GOLDURN IT! CAN'T YOU AT LEAST LOOK HAPPY, YOU BONEHEAD?!
GLUG GLUG
WHOA! THAT'S ENOUGH!
NOW CHUG IT! C'MON-- SUCK IT UP!
Sighh

I GIVE UP! JUST TAKE A HIKE-- YOU'RE SPOILING MY BEER!
HEY, BABO...

WHY DO YOU THINK MIAN CHOSE NOW TO SET US FREE?

UNTIL NOW SHE'S ALWAYS DRAGGED US ALONG, KICKING AND SCREAMING.
SKSSHH
SHE EVEN SLAPPED CHOKE COLLARS ON US SO WE COULDN'T RUN AWAY.

HEY, DON'T ASK ME. SHE'S ONE CRAZY BROAD.
IT'S WEIRD, I TELL YOU SOMETHING'S UP.

EMPRESS SHION SAID MIAN NEEDED US FOR HER MISSION. SHE SAID WE'RE HER "CHOSEN COMPANIONS"...
ISN'T THAT WHY SHE BROUGHT US ALL THIS WAY, BY FORCE WHEN SHE HAD TO?

SOMETHING BIG IS GOING ON, IN THE SHADOWS WHERE WE LITTLE PEOPLE CAN'T SEE IT...

MIAN AND EMPRESS SHION...

PAL FLA!

THAT BLACK SPHERE DOCTOR KOCOHM MADE...MIAN'S FINAL DESTINATION...

IF I LET THAT DUMB BROAD GET AWAY FROM ME NOW...

NAN

...I'LL NEVER KNOW THE ANSWERS!

WHAD'RE Y'BLABBING 'BOUT, =hic= Y'DAMN DRUNK!

LET'S GO, BABO!

S'GOOD IDEA, LESH HIT ANUDDER BAR...

NO, NOT THAT! MIAN! LET'S GO FIND MIAN!

GET MORE BEER..

MIAN!!

LEGGO OF ME, YA CRAZY JERK!!

HEY! YOU DIDN'T PAY!

YOU OUTTA YOUR HALF-CROCKED MIND, BOY?! WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT PSYCHO CHICK?!

HEY, PAL...

COME ON, BABO! STICK WITH ME, OKAY?!

WHEN BABO SAY "FORGET IT" BABO MEAN "FORGET IT"-- GET IT?!

LOOK, JUST DO THIS AND THE DRINKS ARE ON ME FOR A MONTH, OKAY...?

I SEE, I SEE... YOU'D RATHER BE WITH SOME GIRLIE THAN BE A FREE MAN, EH?

IT'S NOT THAT, I'M TELLING YOU!

ME, I'D RATHER BE WITH MONEY.

GOT MONEY, BUY GIRL, HMM?

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU THINK, THEN WE'RE THROUGH, YOU CHEAP BLOB!

OH YEAH?! WELL, GOOD RIDDANCE, YA' P-WHIPPED BRAT!!

DAMN HER TAIL, ANYWAY... WHERE'D SHE GET TO?

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S CROSSED THE BORDER ALREADY.

STILL, IT'S SO QUIET.
WHEN SHE'S AROUND THERE'S ALWAYS FIGHTING SOMEWHERE...

DAMN IT ALL, ANYWAY!

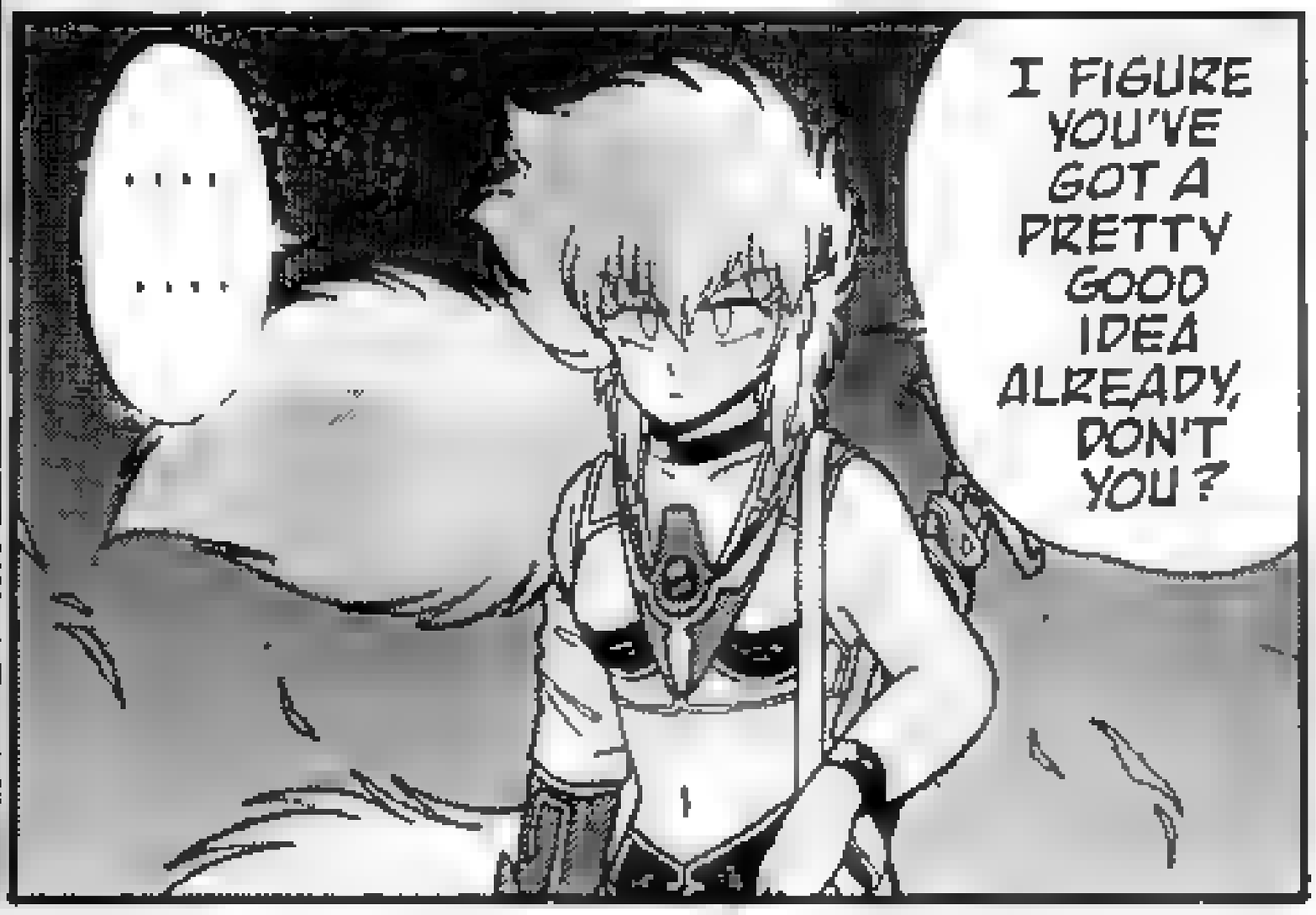
MIAAAN!
!!
MIAN! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE HIDING!
WATARU!

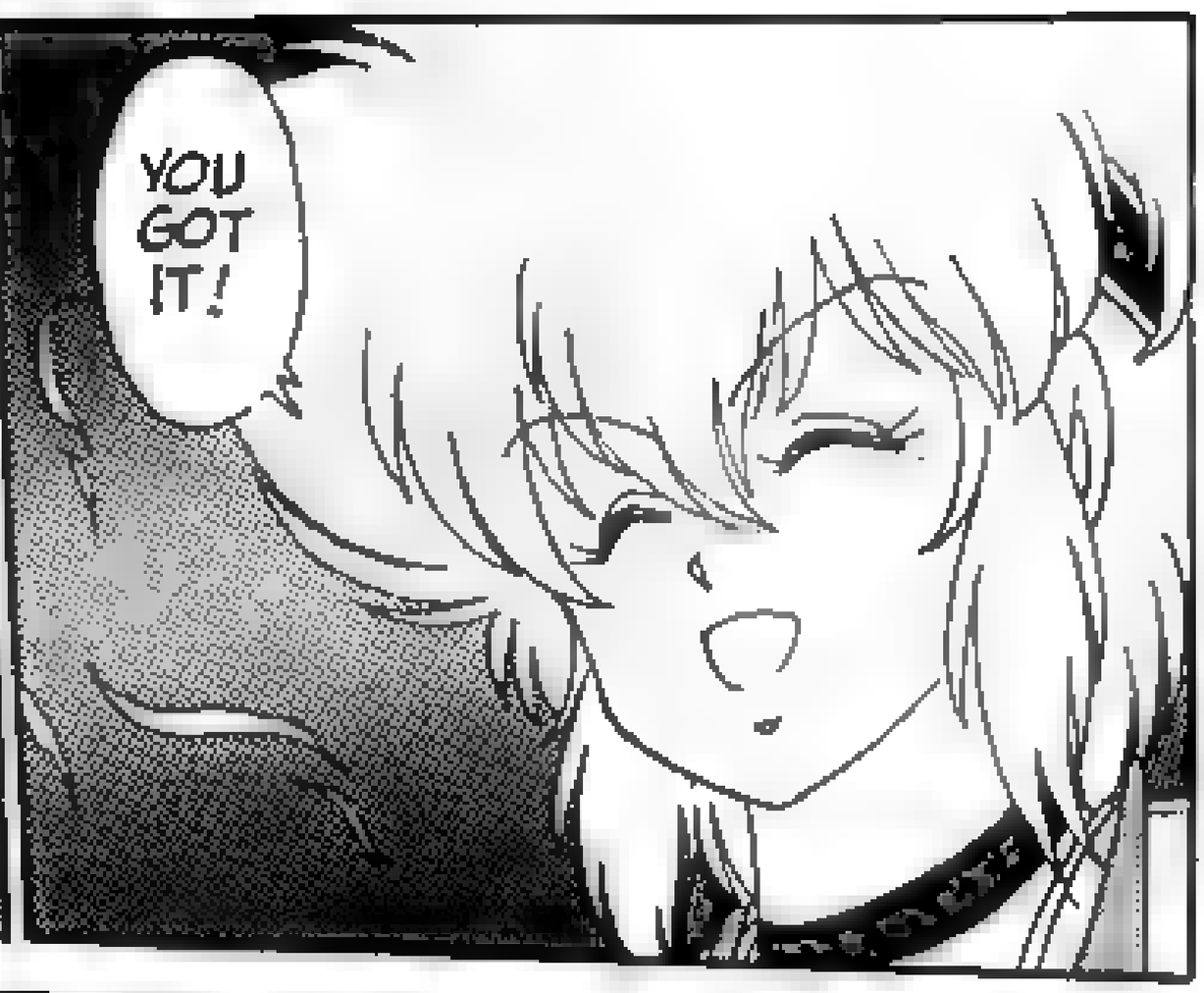
I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU...
hahh
hahh

I'M GOING WITH YOU!
hahh
ACROSS THE GUSTAV LINE!
hahh

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REGRET IT?
LOOK! WE'VE COME THIS FAR TOGETHER, RIGHT?! I'M STICKING WITH YOU TO THE END!

BUT MIAN, I JUST WANT TO KNOW ONE THING...
WHERE IS IT EXACTLY THAT YOU'RE GOING?


....
....
I FIGURE YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA ALREADY, DON'T YOU?



SHION'S CASTLE IT IS... KYURAWEIL KEEP!

THAT'S OUR ULTIMATE DESTINATION.

KYURAWEIL KEEP...

BUT WHY THE HELL DO YOU WANT TO GO THERE ?!

JUST WHAT IS IT BETWEEN YOU AND SHION ?!

I'LL TELL YOU IN GOOD TIME, I PROMISE.

REALLY...? YOU PROMISE... ?

BUT YOU KNOW, FROM NOW ON THINGS ARE REALLY GOING TO GET HAIRY.

I COULDN'T JUST DRAG YOU ALONG...

GEE, YOU ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT US ?!

WELL, ER, SURE--ANY GOOD MASTER WOULD...

HEY, NO SWEAT, DEARIE! ME AND BABO, WE THRIVE ON TROUBLE.

NYA HA HA HA !

FORGIVE ME, WATARU...THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS... ONCE WE REACH KYURAWEIL KEEP, YOU...YOU'RE GOING TO...

NOW WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

ULP!

DON'T BE S-SILLY! IT'S NOTHING.

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, BOY!

ANYWAY, JUST TRUST ME. I'LL DO RIGHT BY YOU.

OH, YEAH...?

I SAID TRUST ME!!

I TRUST, I TRUST!

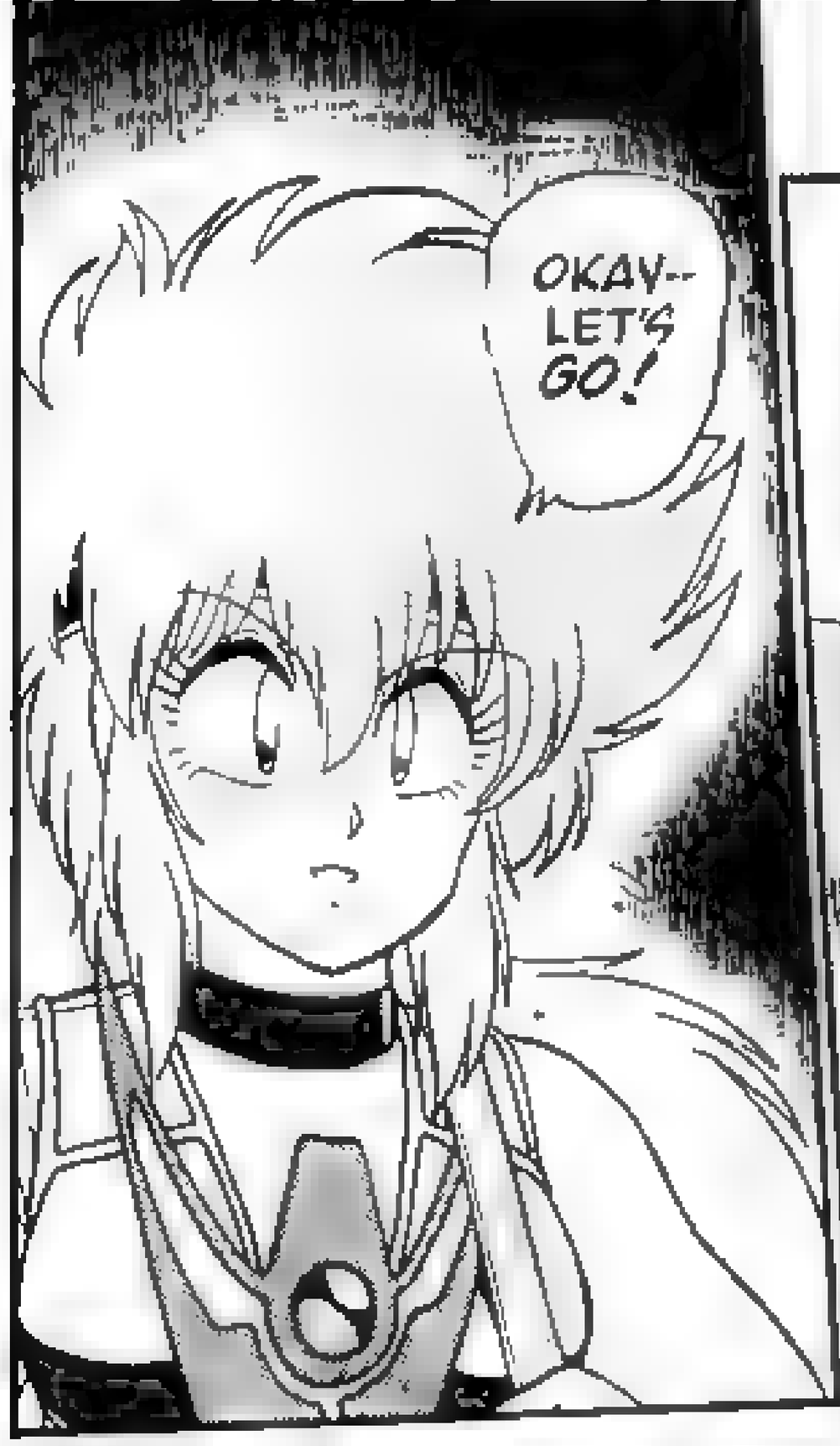
GREAT! A MASTER COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER SERVANT THAN YOU! THIS'LL BE A BLAST!

"SERVANT"...?

WHAP

YEAH...SO DON'T GO GETTING ANY BIG IDEAS!

YES'M, YES'M.


OKAY-- LET'S GO!

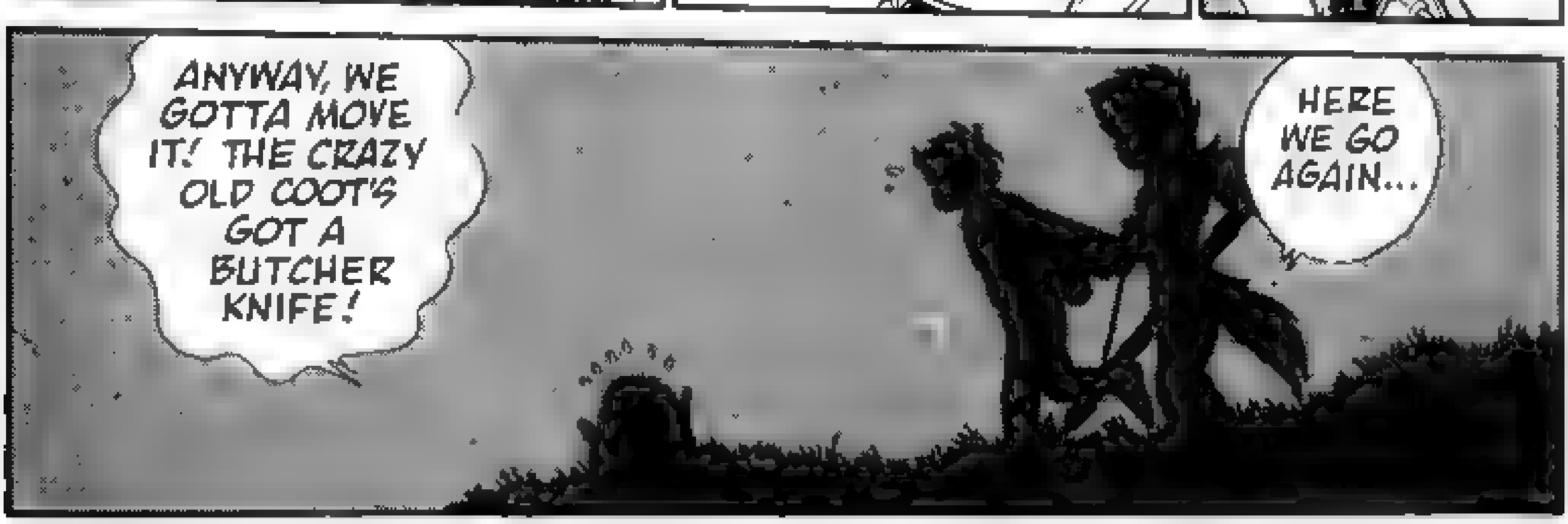
I'M READY AND WILLING, BUT BABO...

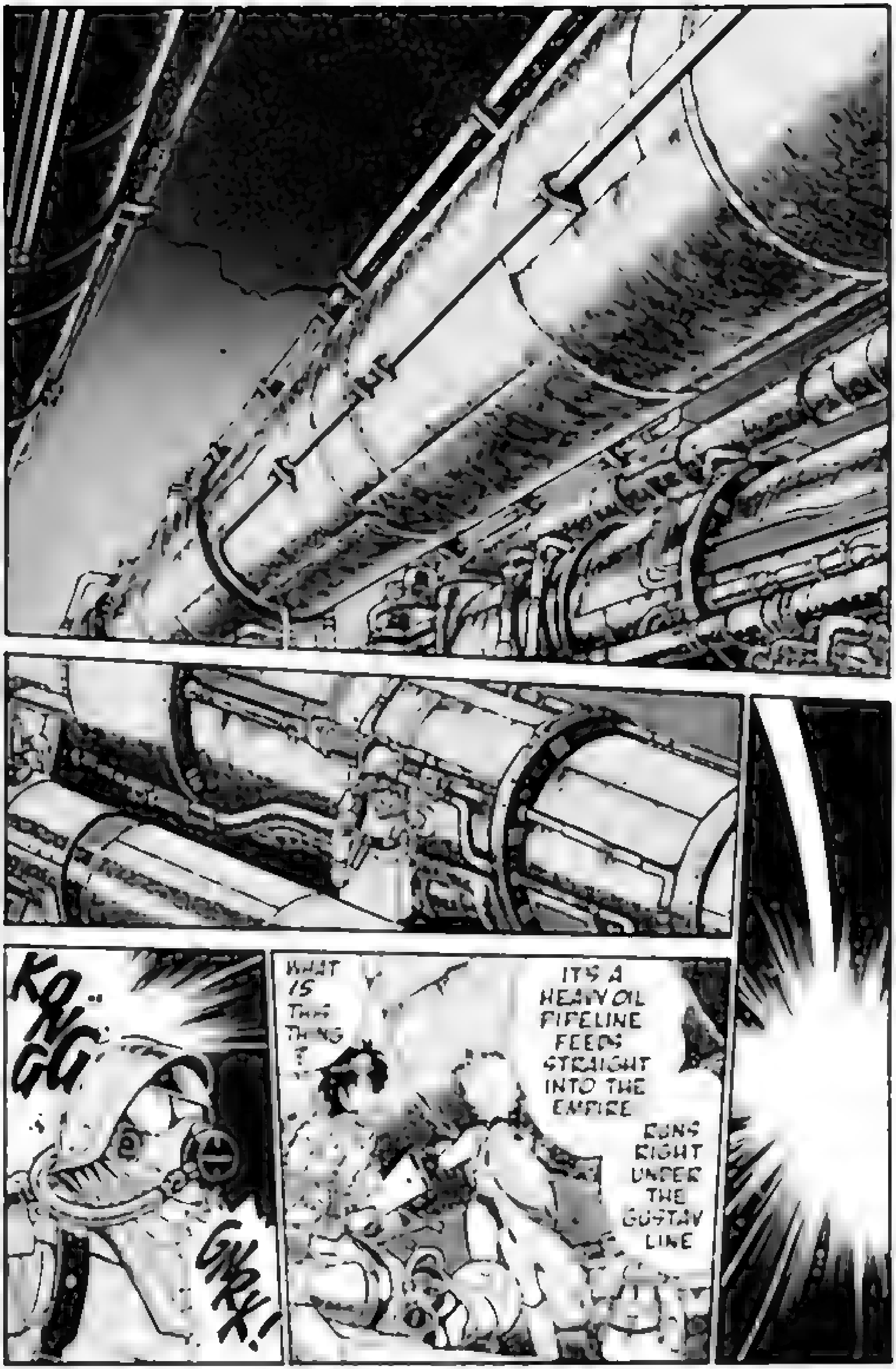
BABO'S NOT COMING ?
NO, THE LITTLE SKUNK--

WATARU! WATARU, OLD BUDDY! TAKE ME WITH YOU!

DID YOU STIFF ANOTHER BARTENDER?!
YOU KNOW ME...WHEN I DRINK TOO MUCH, MY FEET JUST DO THE WALKING.

JEEZ, YOU SMELL LIKE A BREWERY!
FORGIVE ME, SWEET MASTER I'LL HOLD MY BREATH


ANYWAY, WE GOTTA MOVE IT! THE CRAZY OLD COOT'S GOT A BUTCHER KNIFE!
HERE WE GO AGAIN...


KA-GU-GU
WHAT IS THIS THING?
IT'S A HEAVY OIL PIPELINE FEEDS STRAIGHT INTO THE EMPIRE
RUNS RIGHT UNDER THE GUSTAV LINE

NOW HURRY!

WE GOTTA GET INTO THAT MESS?

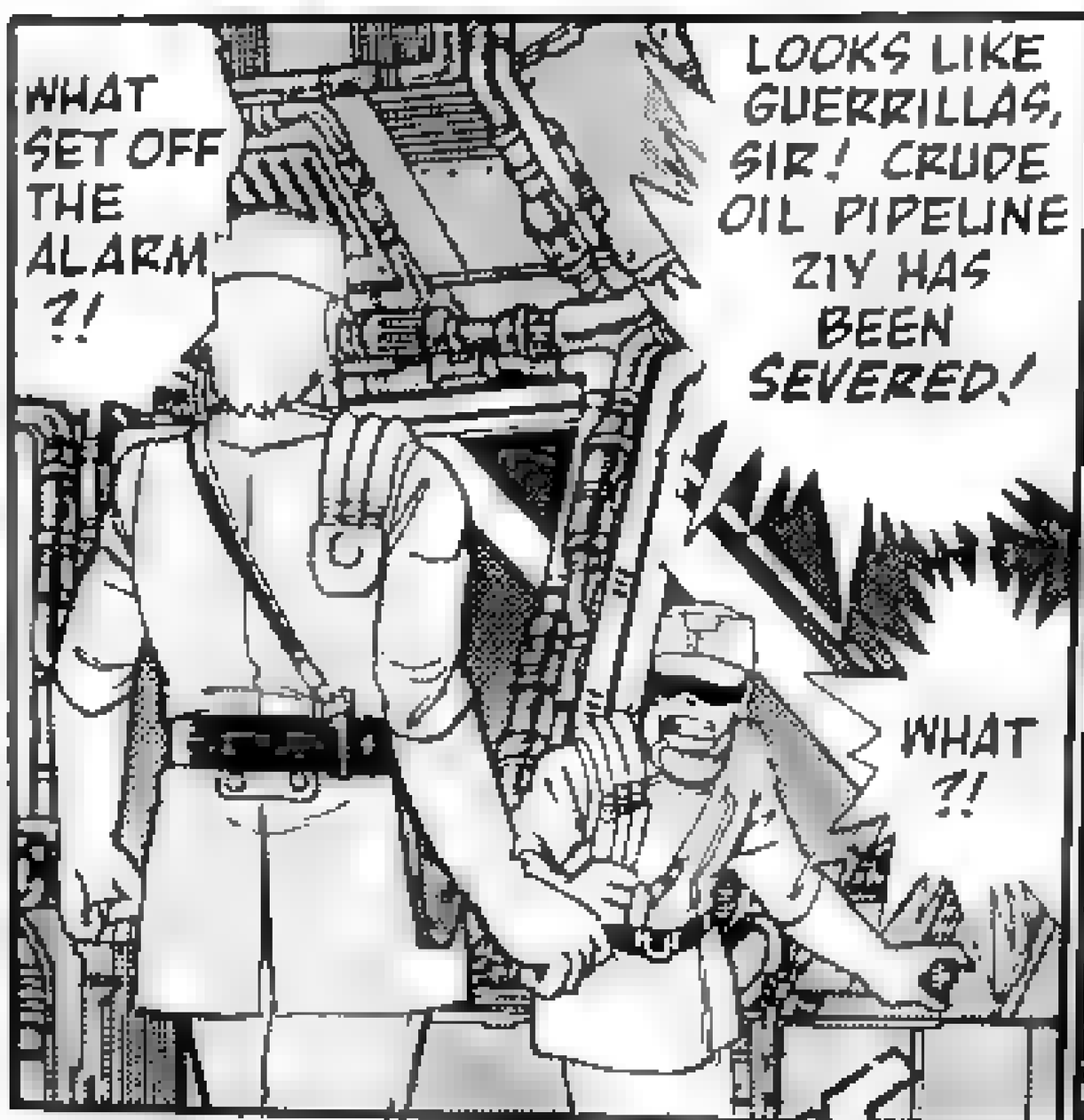
GROSS.. WE'RE GONNA GET COVERED WITH OIL.

AW, QUIT YER BITCHING!!

AH, THE SWEET SMELL OF OIL... SMELLS LIKE MONEY!

PERVERT!!

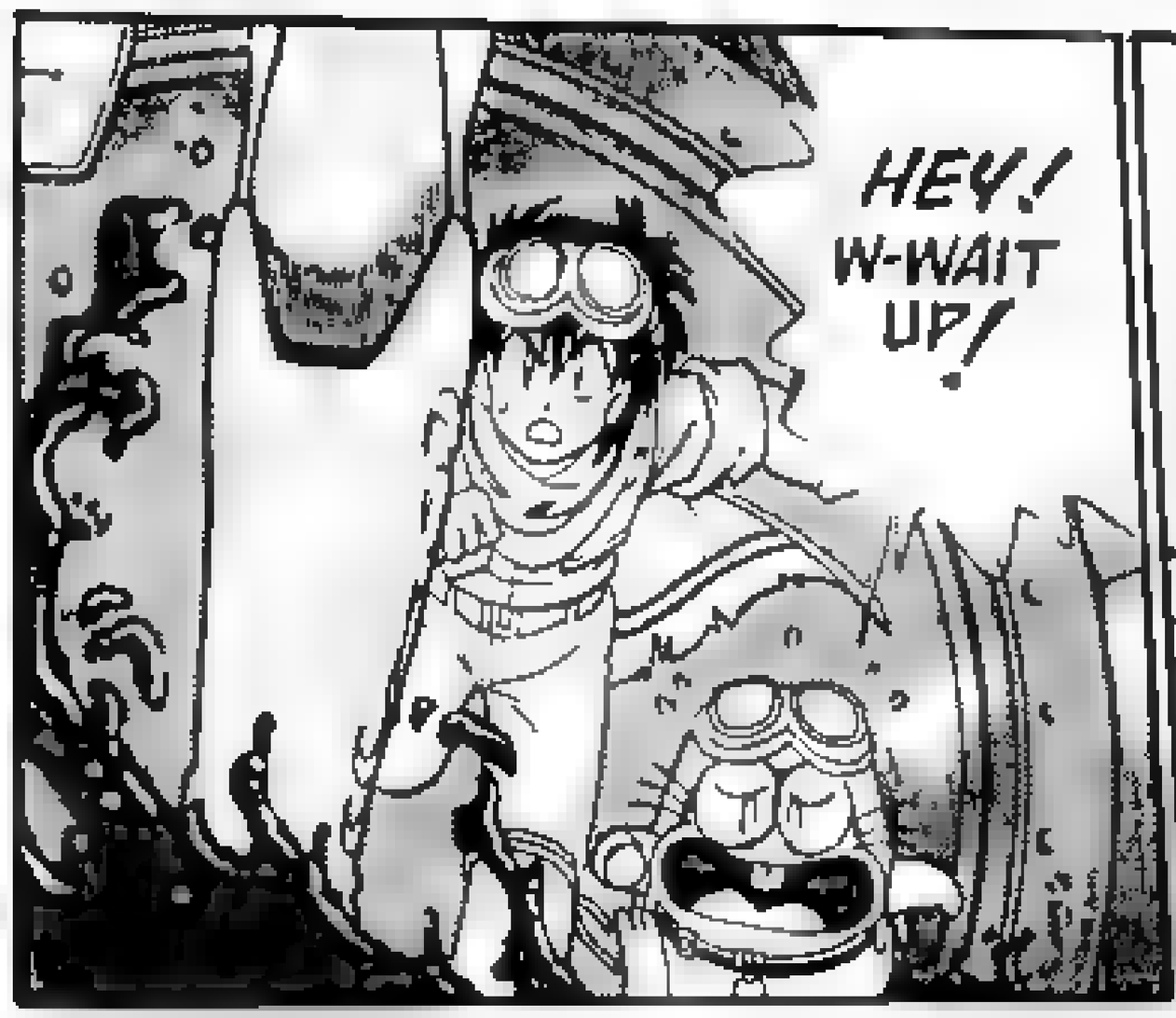
VREEE VREEE

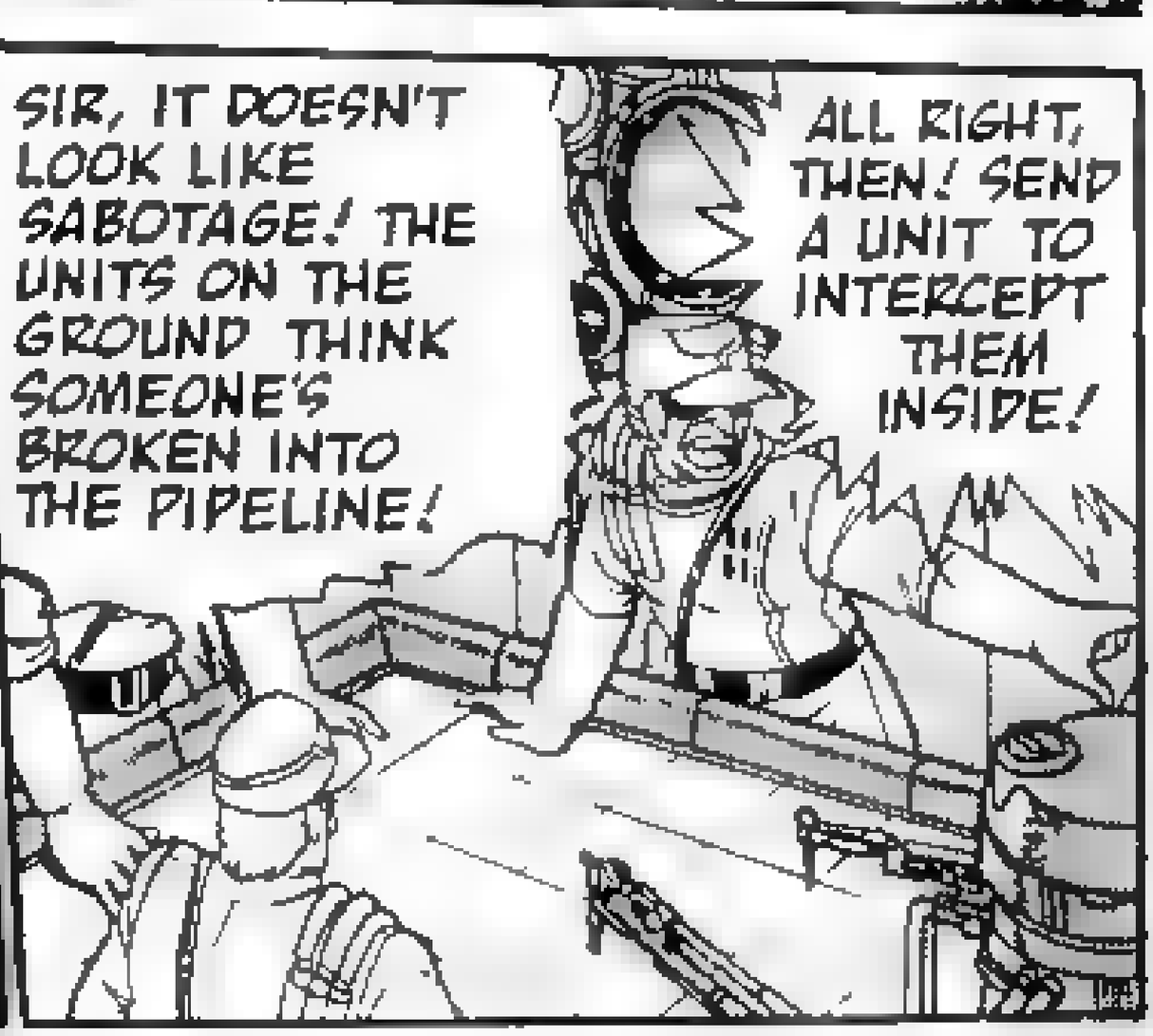

WHAT SET OFF THE ALARM ?!
LOOKS LIKE GUERRILLAS, SIR! CRUDE OIL PIPELINE ZIY HAS BEEN SEVERED!
WHAT ?!

ALL FORCES! RED ALERT, RED ALERT!
SECTOR 17 GUARD UNITS, INVESTIGATE THE PIPELINE, AND EXTERMINATE ALL RADICAL ELEMENTS!

VRRRR
VRRRR
VRRRR

UH OH, IT SOUNDS A LITTLE NOISY OUT THERE, DON'TCHA THINK?
THEY'VE FOUND US-- MOVE YOUR ASS!


HEY! W-WAIT UP!


SIR, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SABOTAGE! THE UNITS ON THE GROUND THINK SOMEONE'S BROKEN INTO THE PIPELINE!
ALL RIGHT, THEN! SEND A UNIT TO INTERCEPT THEM INSIDE!

REMEMBER, DON'T USE YOUR GUNS OR YOU'LL BLOW US ALL TO KINGDOM COME!
GEE, MIAN AREN'T WE PAST THE GUSTAV LINE YET ?
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT IT SHOULD BE THE OTHER SIDE BY--
!!
YAAAH!!

GET BACK !
ドカッ
ドサッ
!!

HEH, HEH...
EE
TUCK!!!
GYA HA HA! WHAT A SCREAM!
NGRR...
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT!!
DIE!!!!
KANGG
KIAONG
KRANG

ENOUGH OF THIS!
BURN THEM ALL!
WHOOSH
!!

YAIEEE!!!
MIAN! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!!
NO KIDDING!
TERRANES
WOOSH!

RMBBRMBBRMBB
RUN, RUN, RUN!!
BRTTT
BLAM
BLAM
BUDDABUDDA
BKOOM
AIEEE!

OH, GREAT-- IT WON'T COME OFF.
HEY, MIAAAN, CAN I SCRUB YOUR BACK?
CAN I SCRUB YOUR FRONT!
I SAID DON'T LOOK!
JEEZ...CHEER HER UP, AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS?
IDIOTS!!
I TOLD YA!

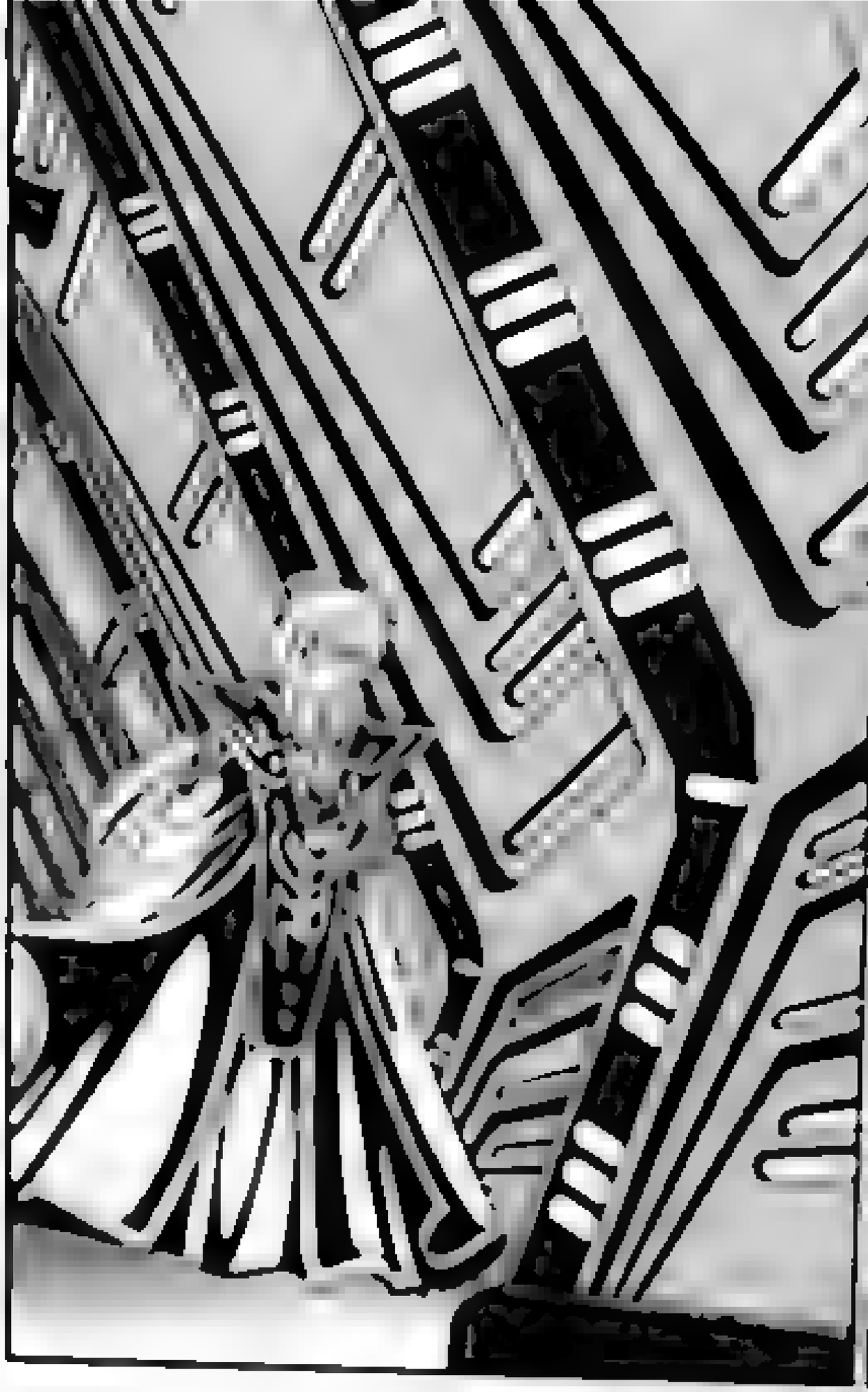
KYURAWEIL:
CASTLE OF
MYSTERY

KYURAWEIL CITY

VREEP
VREEP
VREEP
VREEP
PRESSURE RISING!
CURRENT SPIKES IN CENTRAL DRIVE CIRCUITS! TERMINATE FURTHER INFLUX!
DANGER! DANGER!!

EXCEEDING DESIGN MAXIMUM! DANGER! DANGER!
OVERRIDE LIMITS! RAISE THE PRESSURE!
SHREEEEEEEE
WILL IT...?!

ANOTHER FAILURE...
I CAN'T STABILIZE THE SYSTEM ALONE.
MIAN...
I MUST HAVE YOU HERE !!
I WILL HAVE YOU DRAGGED BEFORE ME, WHATEVER IT TAKES !



WHAT IS IT VESSELRING ?
FORGIVE ME, YOUR MAJESTY I HAVE UNFORTUNATE NEWS

WE HAVE LOST COMMAND
AND THE CONTROLS HAVE PROCEEDED THE RETURN AND UNLESS MATERIAL TRANSITION

THE HOLD CLOSE AT LAST

YOUR MAJESTY... FORGIVE ME..

I CRAVE PERMISSION TO ASK ONE QUESTION.

YES, GENERAL ?

WHY IS YOUR MAJESTY SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THIS ONE GIRL ?

THE GENERAL STAFF AND OUR TROOPS CANNOT UNDERSTAND

PERHAPS SHE IS UNUSUALLY STRONG, BUT SHE IS STILL JUST A LONE FEMALE THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR--

HHNGH!

Y-YOUR MAJESTY FORGIVE ME...

I-I ONLY...

KESSELRING

IN YOUR LOYALTY TO ME YOU HAVE BEEN A MODEL OF DEVOTION.. UNTIL NOW.

YOU MAY CONTINUE TO OBEY MY COMMANDS FROM THIS DAY FORWARD-- WITHOUT QUESTION!

OF-OF COURSE..

I-I DREAM OF NOTHING MORE THAN TO FAITHFULLY DEVOTE MY LIFE TO YOUR MAJESTY, FOREVER..

WHAB

GET OUT!

YOUR MAJESTY.. MERCY... FORGIVE MY IMPERTINENCE.

WOW, GLESS THIS REALLY IS ENEMY TERRITORY, HUH? THEY GOT OUR MUGS PLASTERED ALL OVER THE PLACE
WAIT UP, YOU GUYS!
NOW WHAT IS IT, BABO?
I REFUSE TO WEAR THIS STUPID DISGUISE!
I WANT SOMETHING THAT SETS OFF MY NATURAL GOOD LOOKS!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? THOSE LOOK PERFECT ON YOU

NOW THIS IS FASHION!!

HMPH!

LOOK HERE, BLOB. WE'RE INSIDE THE EMPIRE NOW. WE'VE GOT TO BE DOUBLE CAREFUL.

SHE'S RIGHT, BABO. THAT'S WHY WE'RE WEARING THESE DISGUISES IN THE FIRST PLACE

B.S!

SOME IDIOT SPOTS US, WE JUST HAVE MIAN SLICE 'N' DICE HIM!

CHOP CHOP!

WHY ME..

LISTEN UP...I'M IN A HURRY, SEE!

THERE'S NO POINT STIRRING UP TROUBLE, GETTING INTO FIGHTS..

OH, OF COURSE. AND WHO IS IT WHO ALWAYS GETS US INTO FIGHTS, EH, MIAN?

GRR

SOUNDS LIKE HER RECHARGE PERIOD, EH, WATARU?!

YEAH..SHE STARTS GETTING SWORD-HAPPY ABOUT THREE DAYS BEFORE IT STARTS.

WHAT WAS THAT, YOU TWO?!

AND THEN SHE TAKES IT OUT ON US!

OWW! STOP IT! MIA -
HONK
GNURK!
SPLAAK
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING, BOY?
OH, NO.
AS IF IT WAS SUCH A MYSTERY.

GEE, DOES IT HURT ?
DAMN RIGHT IT HURTS YOU BUBBLE-HEADED BIMBO!
MOVE IT, PEOPLE, MOVE IT!
WHAT THE HELL KINDA DRIVER ARE YOU, ANYWAY?! LEMME SEE YOUR LICENSE!
YOU GUYS ARE OUT-OF-TOWNERS, EH? YOU'LL HAVE TO COME DOWN TO THE STATION AND FILL OUT A REPORT.
OH, MAN
HEY! GET A WAGON ROLLING FOR THE KID!
WHAT ?!
AW, DON'T GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE, OFFICER.
IT'S JUST A FEW BUMPS AND BRUISES
THE PAIN, THE PAIN! I'M DYING.!
WHO ASKED YOU ?!
NOW SEE HERE, LITTLE LADY.
OH, GREAT IF THEY TAKE US IN

THE AMBULANCE IS ON THE WAY, SIR!
GOOD, GOOD. NOW, IF YOU'LL JUST COME ALONG WITH ME, MA'AM..

SORRY OFFICER, BUT...
BUT WHAT ?

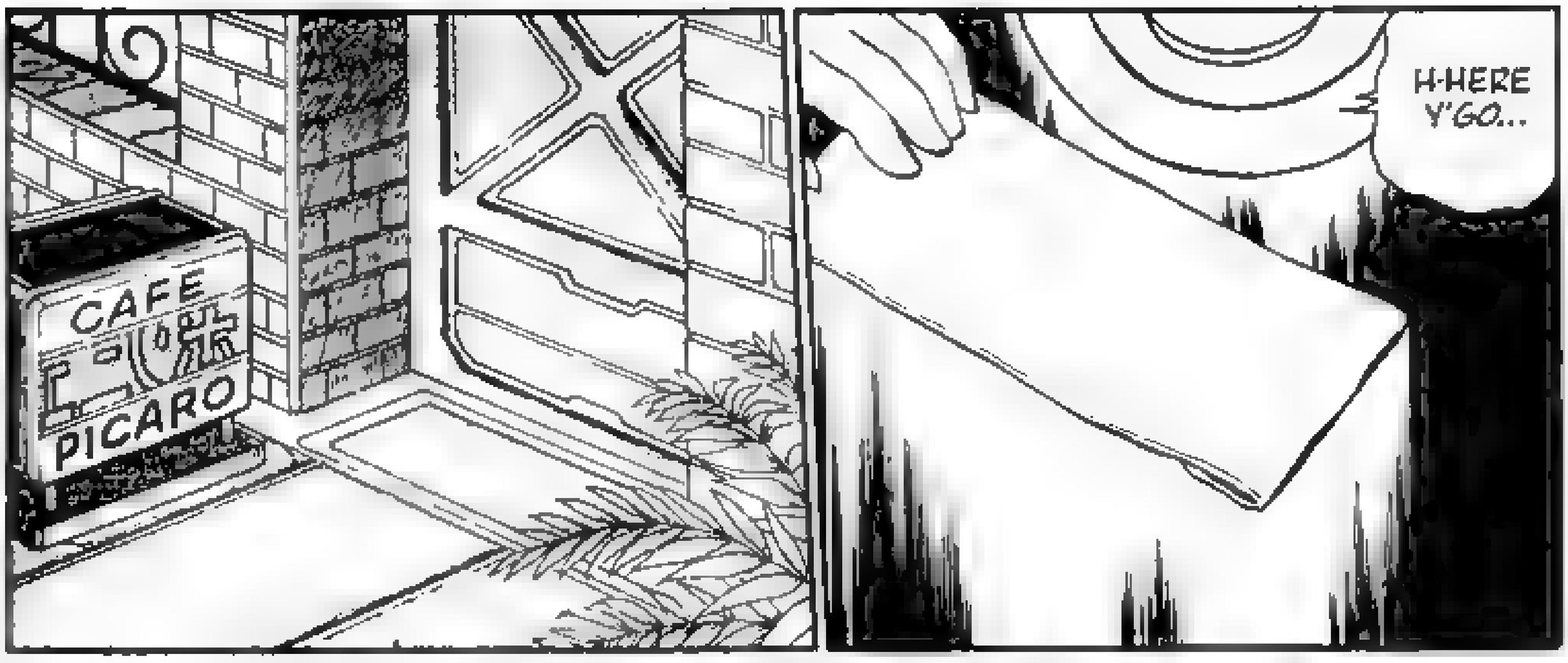
WHA WHA WHA--?!

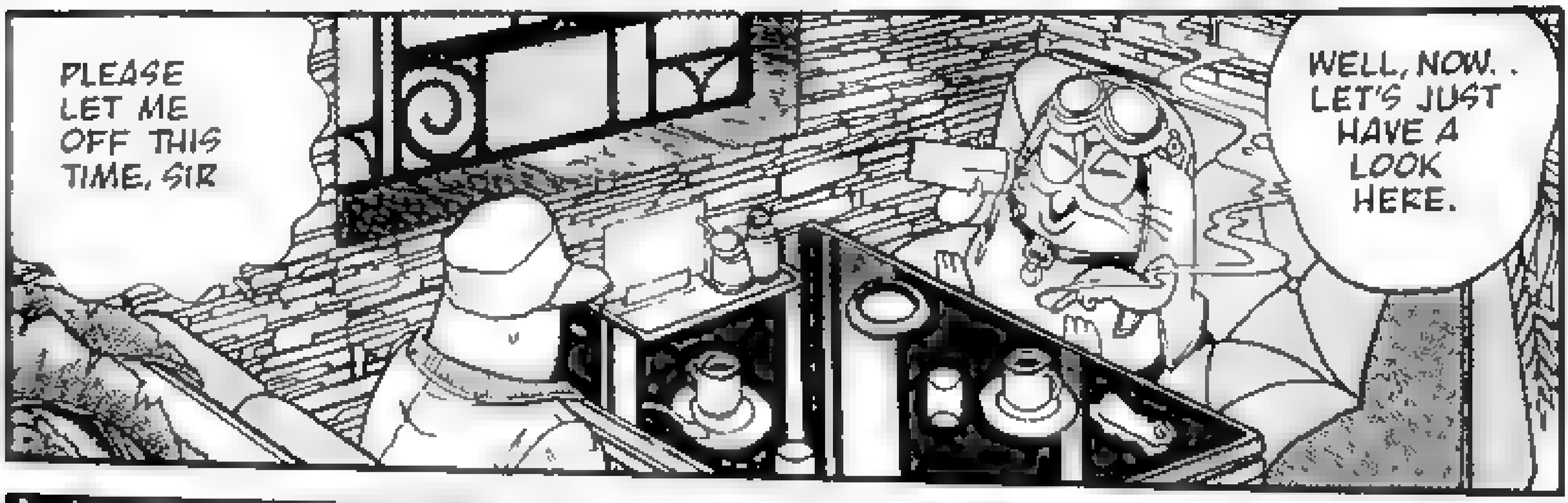
YOU IDIOT! JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
BUT BUT, SIR! MY CLOTHES JUST FELL OFF!

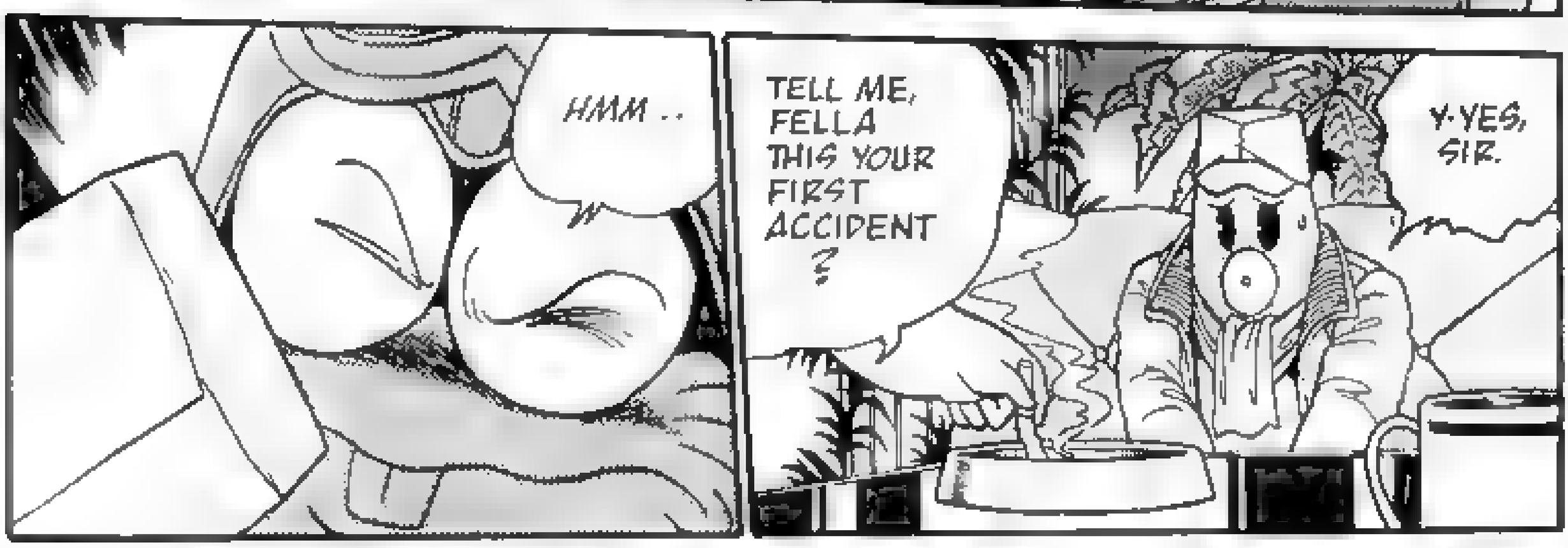
YOUR CLOTHES JUST "FELL OFF"...?! ALL RIGHT, HAMNER, I'M TAKING YOU IN FOR PSYCHE EVAL!
B-B-BUT, SIR!!
HEY.. WHERE'D THEM KIDS GO?

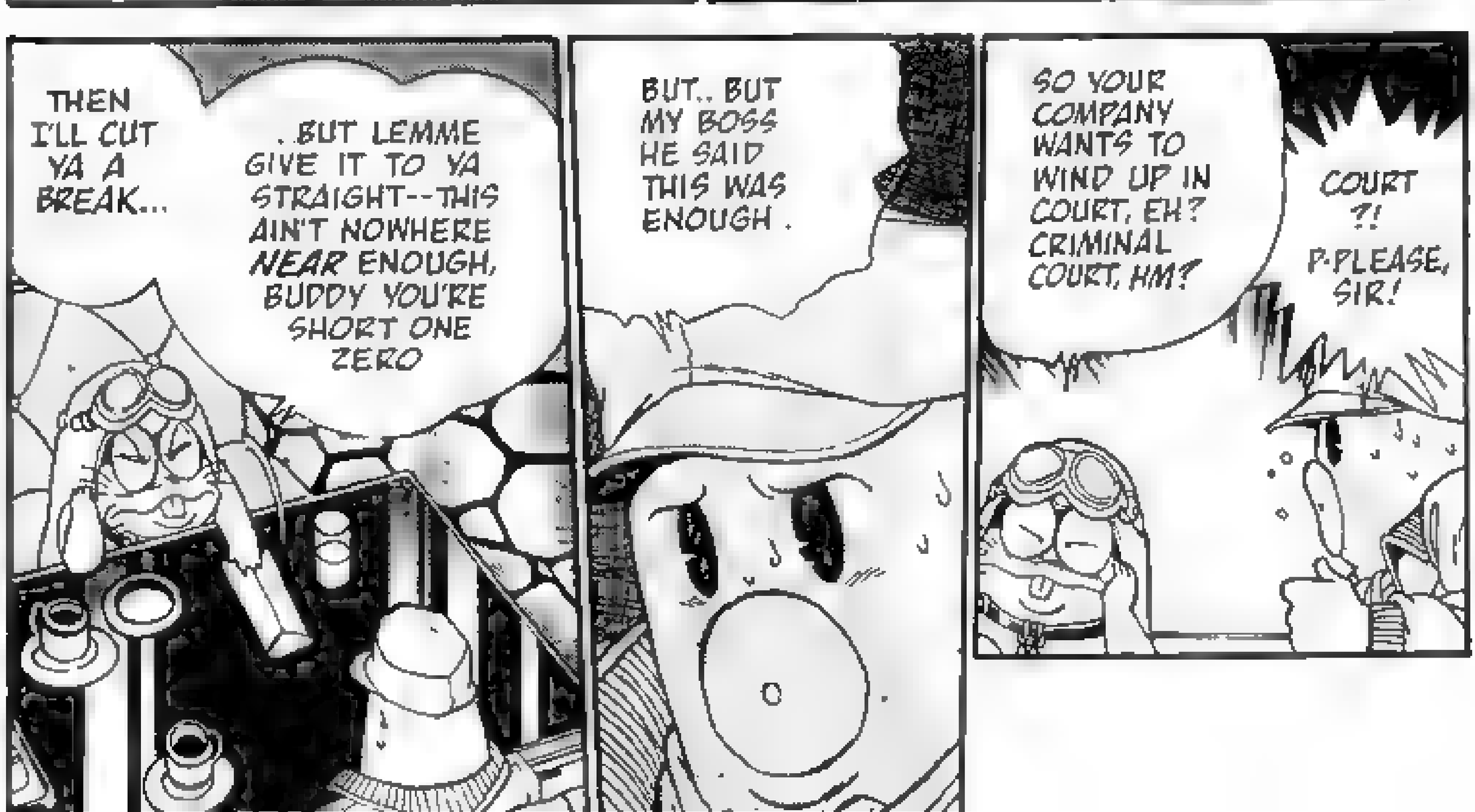
THUD
YAIEE!
WOULD. YOU PLEASE WATCH MY LEG?!
OH, YEAH, RIGHT.
YOUR LEG GOT IT TOO.

LOOK, I'M GETTING SICK OF YOUR WHINING. GEEZ, YOU ONLY GOT RUN OVER BY A TRUCK!
AW, SHUDDUP! YOU THROW ON A COUPLE LOUSY BANDAGES...
...AND DUMP ME IN SOME FLEABAG HOTEL! I COULD A CROAKED FOR ALL YOU CARE!
SO WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? REGISTER YOU IN A PUBLIC HOSPITAL?
AHHH, YES! SWEET WHITE ANGELS OF TENDER MERCY, GENTLE HOT NURSE BABES..
OOH, LET ME TAKE CARE OF.. EVERYTHING!
SO SORRY I'M NOT A "SWEET-WHITE-ANGEL-OF-MERCY-GENTLE-HOT-NURSE-BABE," JERK!
NOT HALF AS SORRY AS I AM!!


CAFE
PICARO
H-HERE Y'GO...


PLEASE LET ME OFF THIS TIME, SIR
WELL, NOW. . LET'S JUST HAVE A LOOK HERE.


HMM . .
TELL ME, FELLA THIS YOUR FIRST ACCIDENT ?
Y-YES, SIR.


THEN I'LL CUT YA A BREAK...
. BUT LEMME GIVE IT TO YA STRAIGHT--THIS AIN'T NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH, BUDDY YOU'RE SHORT ONE ZERO
BUT.. BUT MY BOSS HE SAID THIS WAS ENOUGH .
SO YOUR COMPANY WANTS TO WIND UP IN COURT, EH? CRIMINAL COURT, HM?
COURT ?!
P-PLEASE, SIR!

OKAY--I...I UNDERSTAND I'LL GO TALK TO MY BOSS

GO AHEAD, TALK AWAY.

'CAUSE AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT'S SINCERITY THAT COUNTS, BUDDY-- GET IT?

Y-YESSIR

LOTS OF FOLDING, GREEN SINCERITY TELL YOUR BOSS THAT

SHRRRRRP

SIR, I'M S-SORRY, SIR, BUT MY C-COMPANY SAID THIS WOULD HAVE TO DO...

MAYBE FOR THEM, SURE. BUT *YOU'RE* ACTUALLY THE ONE WHO'S PAYING, SEE?

B-BUT, KIND SIR.. I HAVE THE MORTGAGE ON THE HOUSE...

AND I GOT FOUR LITTLE KIDS, THE OLDEST IS FIVE, AND MY YOUNGEST ONLY JUST BORN...

SO...WOULDN'T WANT TO BREAK THEIR LITTLE ORPHAN HEARTS NOW, WOULD YOU, PAPA?

....

....

I-I

LOOK-- JUST HOW BADLY HURT IS YOUR FRIEND, SIR?

DEATH'S DOOR, KIDDO. MULTIPLE COMPOUND FRACTURES. EXPLODING ORGANS. SIX MONTHS, A YEAR TO RECOVER.

MAYBE NEVER WALK AGAIN...HIT HIS NOGGIN HARD, TOO. MAY BE BONKERS...TOO EARLY TO TELL.

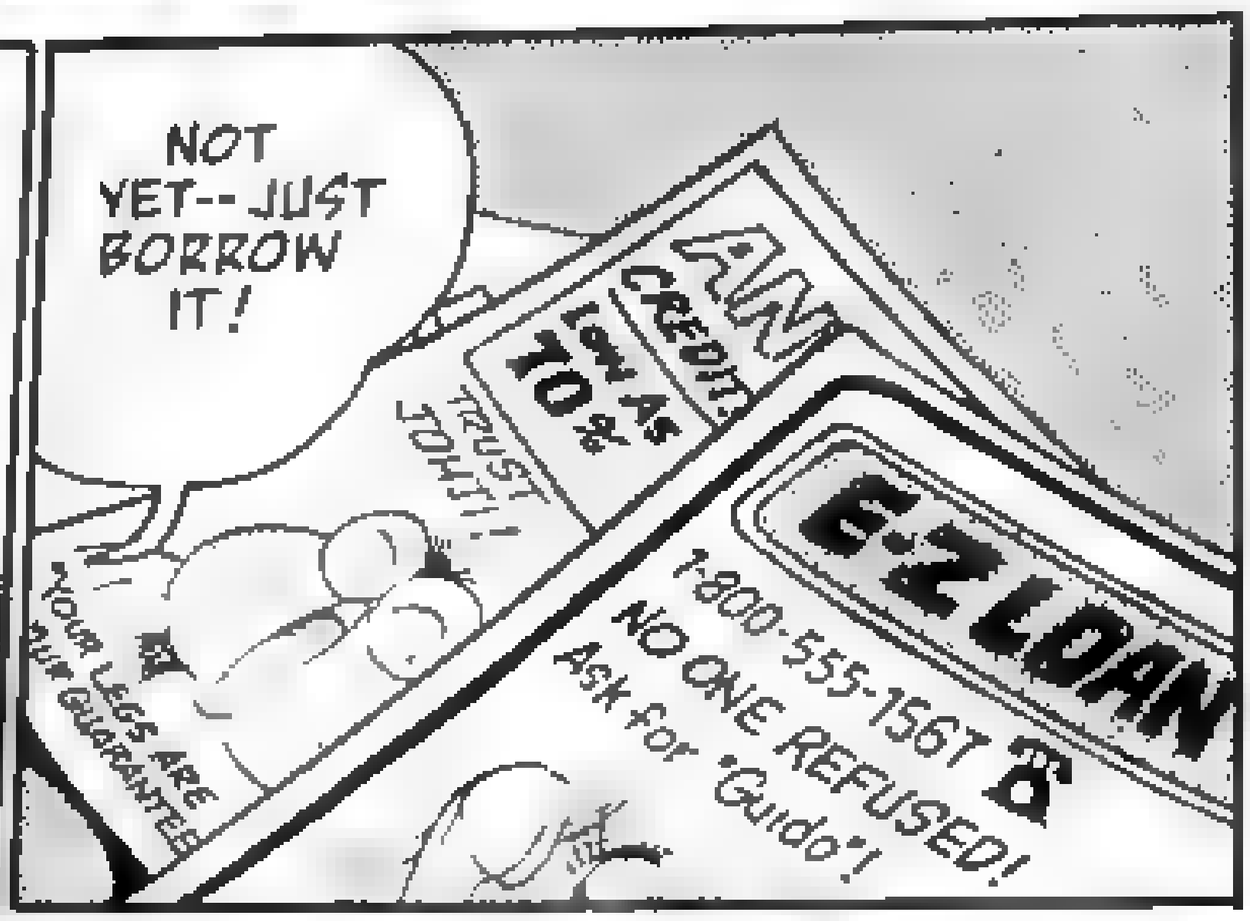
BUT, HEY! WE'LL TALK ABOUT HIS MEDICAL EXPENSES LATER. FIRST, THE "PAIN AND SUFFERING" DOUGH

LOOK HERE, BUDDY--YOU DON'T WANT TO RUIN YOUR KIDDIES' FUTURE, RIGHT?! THINK ABOUT IT, EH?!!

B-BUT, I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY..

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO-- ROB A BANK?

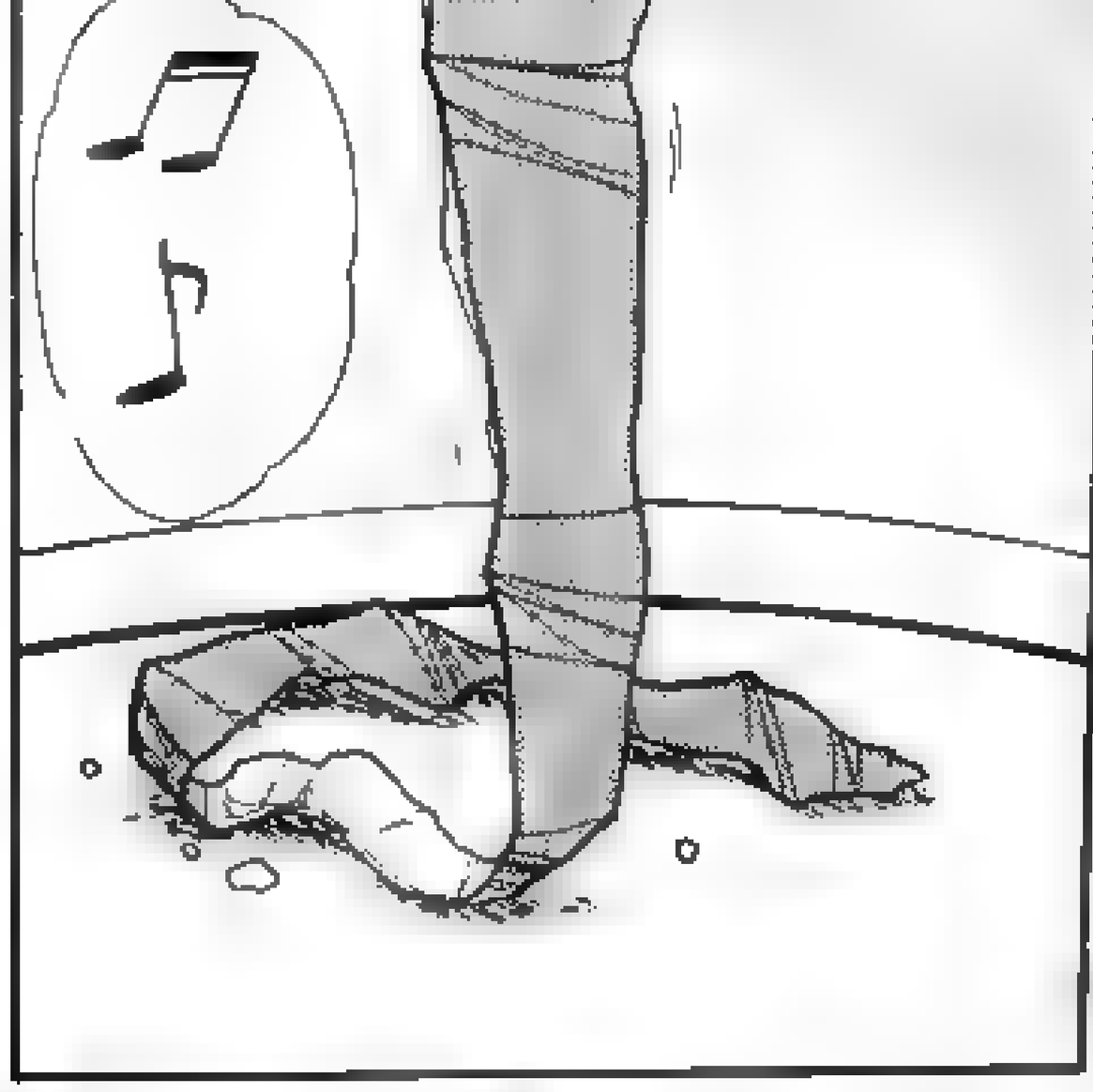
NOT YET--JUST BORROW IT!

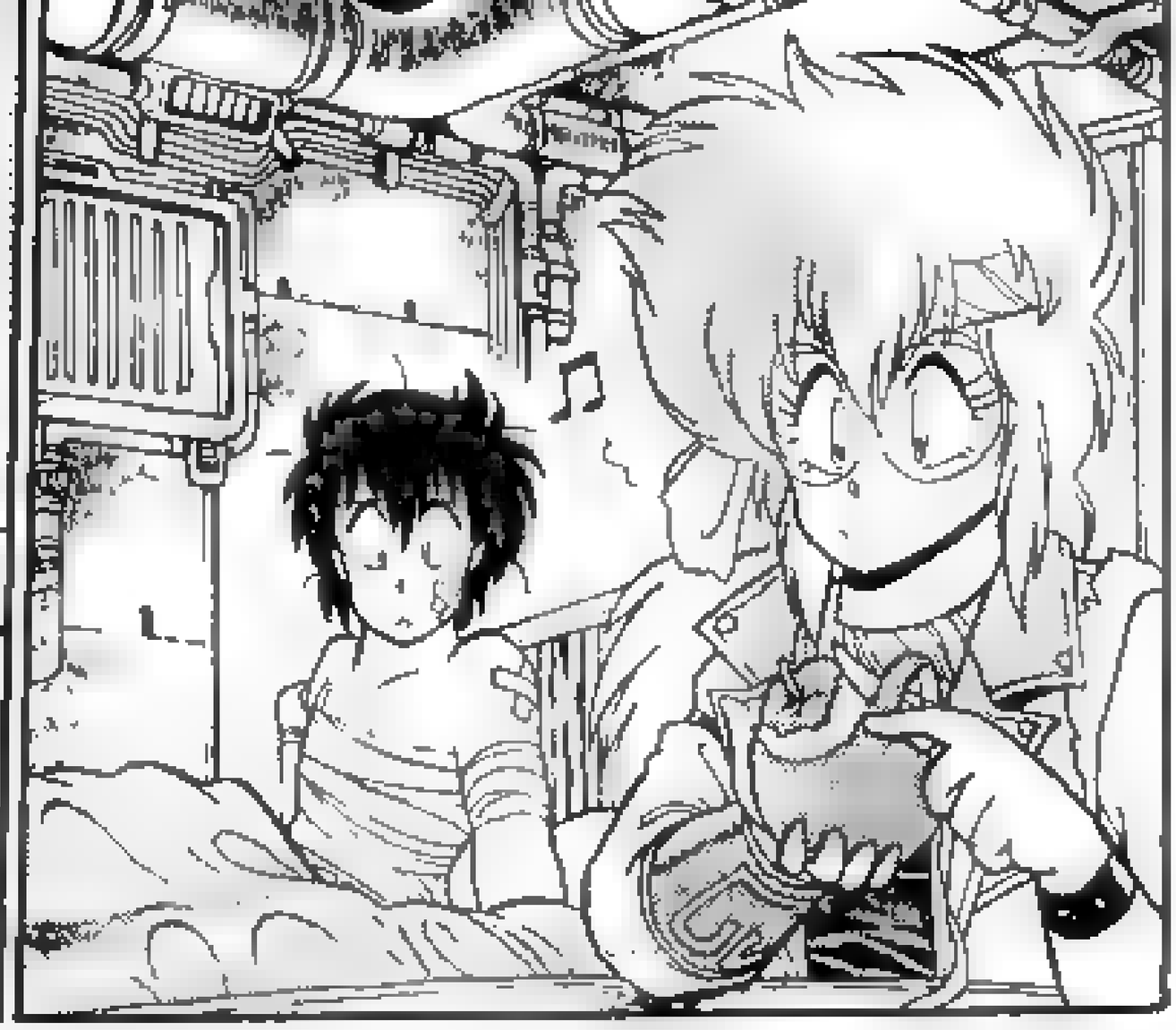


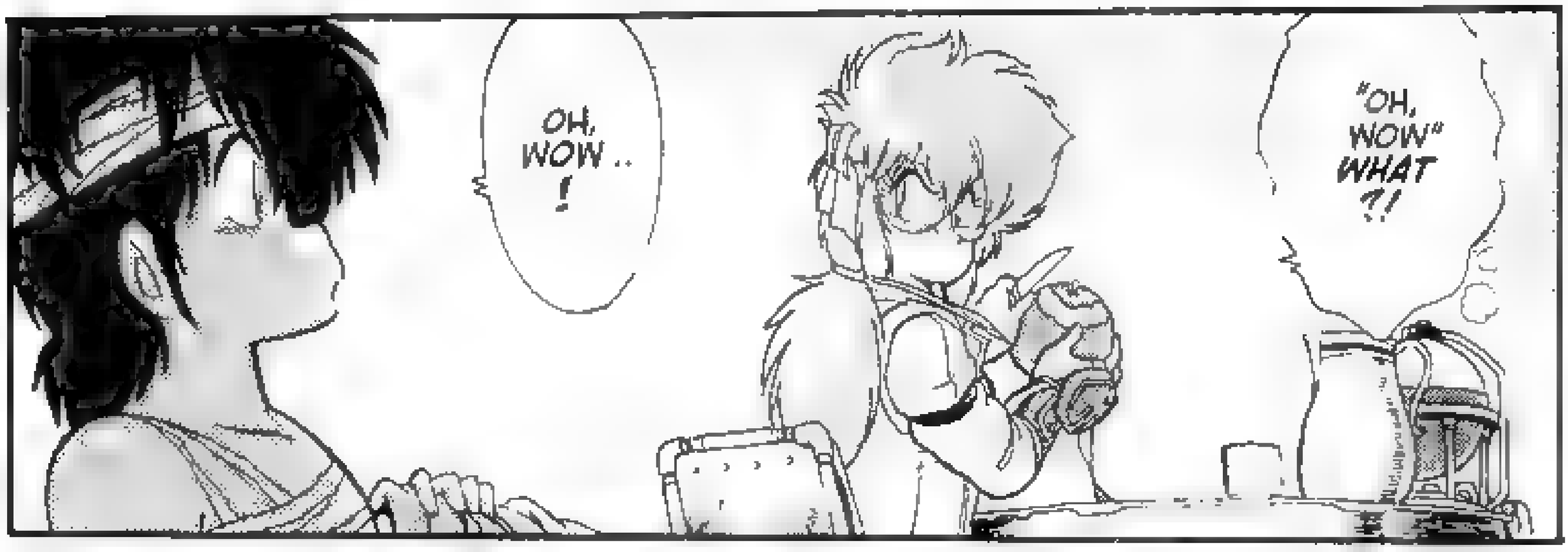
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME BUDDIES OF MINE...

OR JUST GIVE ME POWER OF ATTORNEY AND YOUR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.

GEE.. I-I DON'T KNOW..






OH, WOW.. !
"OH, WOW" WHAT ?!

NOTHING. IT'S JUST THAT, WHEN YOU DO THAT, IT'S LIKE, WOW, YOU REALLY ARE A GIRL AFTER ALL.

STOP BABBLING LIKE AN IDIOT AND EAT THE DUMB APPLE!!

WHAT APPLE? THERE'S NOTHIN' LEFT BUT THE CORE!

WANT SOME OF THE PEEL? THERE'S LOTS OF THAT EH-HEH.

OH, FORGET IT. I'LL DO IT MYSELF.

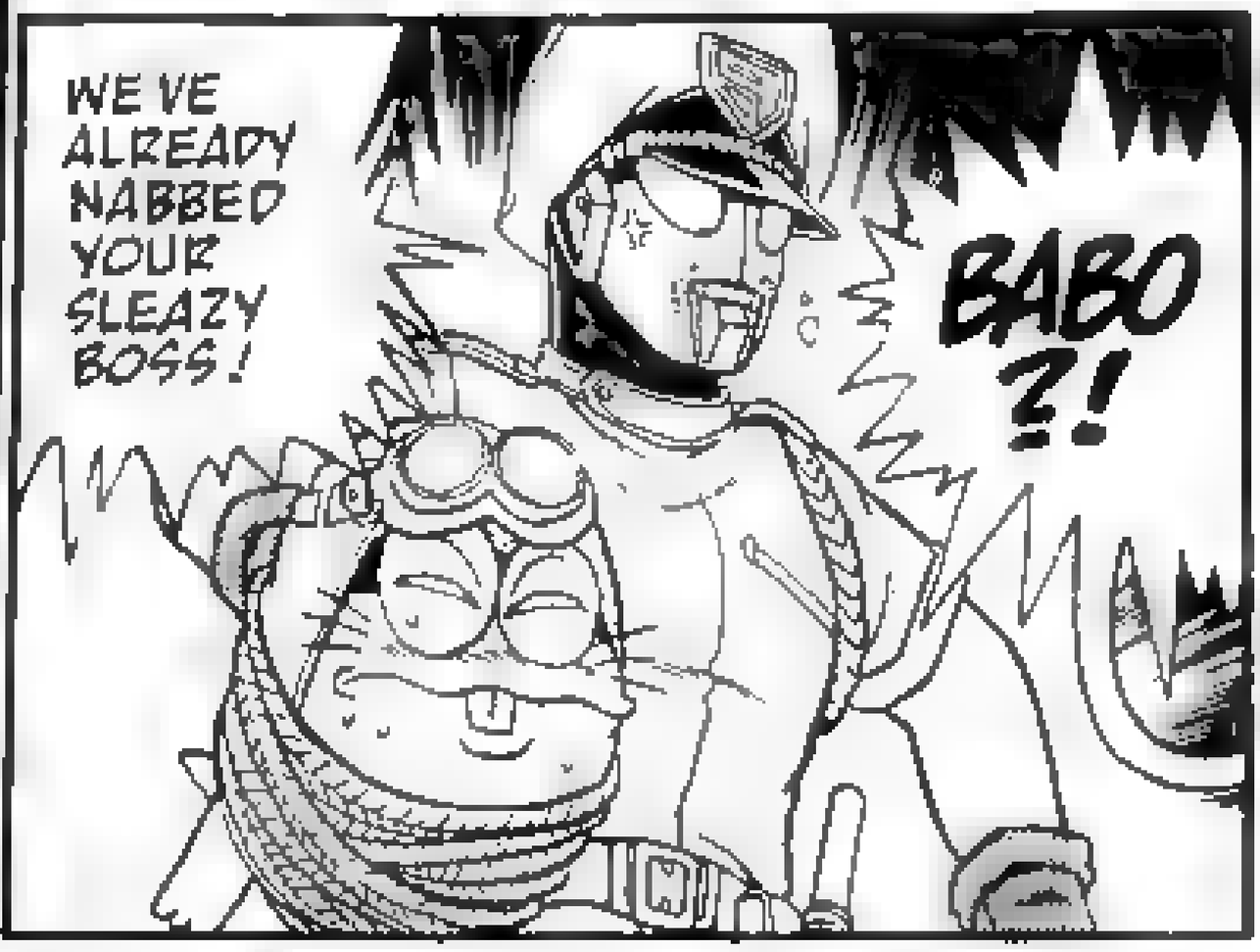
HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THAT
BETTER THAN YOU, AT ANY RATE!

YOU'D MAKE SOME GUY A GOOD WIFE, YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU CALL THAT A COMPLIMENT ?!

BANG BANG BANG BANG

NOW WE'VE GOT YOU!!
FOUL GANG OF CON MEN AND LOAN SHARKS! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR EXTORTION, BUNCO AND FRAUD!!

HUH?


WE'VE ALREADY NABBED YOUR SLEAZY BOSS!
BABO?!

AND HERE WE HAVE THE SUPPOSED VICTIM! "ON DEATH'S DOOR," EH?! "BONKERS," PERHAPS! LOOKS HEALTHY ENOUGH TO ME!

FAKING AN ACCIDENT, THEN PUTTING THE MUSCLE ON THE DRIVER FOR OUTRAGEOUS PAYOFFS! YOU'LL SWING FOR THIS!

PAYOFFS? DEATH'S DOOR?

BABO! HAVE YOU BEEN A BAD BOY AGAIN?!

I'M SORRR-RRRRY...

GIMME A BREAK, MASTER!

I DID IT ALL FOR POOR OL' WATARU

I MEAN, EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING...

MORE LIKE A "FILTHY LUCRE LINING," WITH YOU!!

I'LL BET YOU LOT HAVE RECORDS A MILE LONG!! YOU'RE ALL COMING DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS!

GET YOUR PAWS OFF ME! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

I SAID HANDS OFF!!

AH-HAH! RESISTING ARREST, TOO!

SHUT YOUR TRAP!

YOU AMATEUR CLOWNS COULDN'T ARREST A DRUNKEN HAMSTER, MUCH LESS--

WHOA! STOP! DON'T! QUIT! YOU'LL BLOW OUR COVER!

NO NO NO NO!

SCREW THE COVER! I'M NOT TAKING THIS CRAP ANYMORE!

I'LL WALK STRAIGHT THROUGH THE FRONT GATES OF KYURAWEIL KEEP, BY GOD!

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, BITCH~?!

ENOUGH! SEIZE HER, MEN!!

FWAP

YOU'RE MESSIN' WITH MIAN TORIS!

YEAH! AND I'M WATARU!

M-MIAN TORIS?! THE MOST DANGEROUS, MOST FEARED CRIMINAL IN THE ENTIRE EMPIRE?!

UH-OH... WE'RE IN TROUBLE, MEN...

TOO LATE, COPPERS!

THUS THE PRESENCE OF OUR THREE HEROES ON IMPERIAL SOIL WAS REVEALED TO THE AUTHORITIES IN NO TIME FLAT...

SO HOW DANGEROUS AND FEARED AM I? YOU KNOW ME? WATARU? I'M FAMOUS, TOO. WATARU, REMEMBER?

LITTLE MISS SANTA AND THE BIG BAD REINDEER

IMPERIAL DISTRICT THREE: ANTON CITY

I'LL HAUNT YOU FOR-EVER!

IT'S CHRIST-MAS...

FOR EVERYONE ELSE, THAT IS...

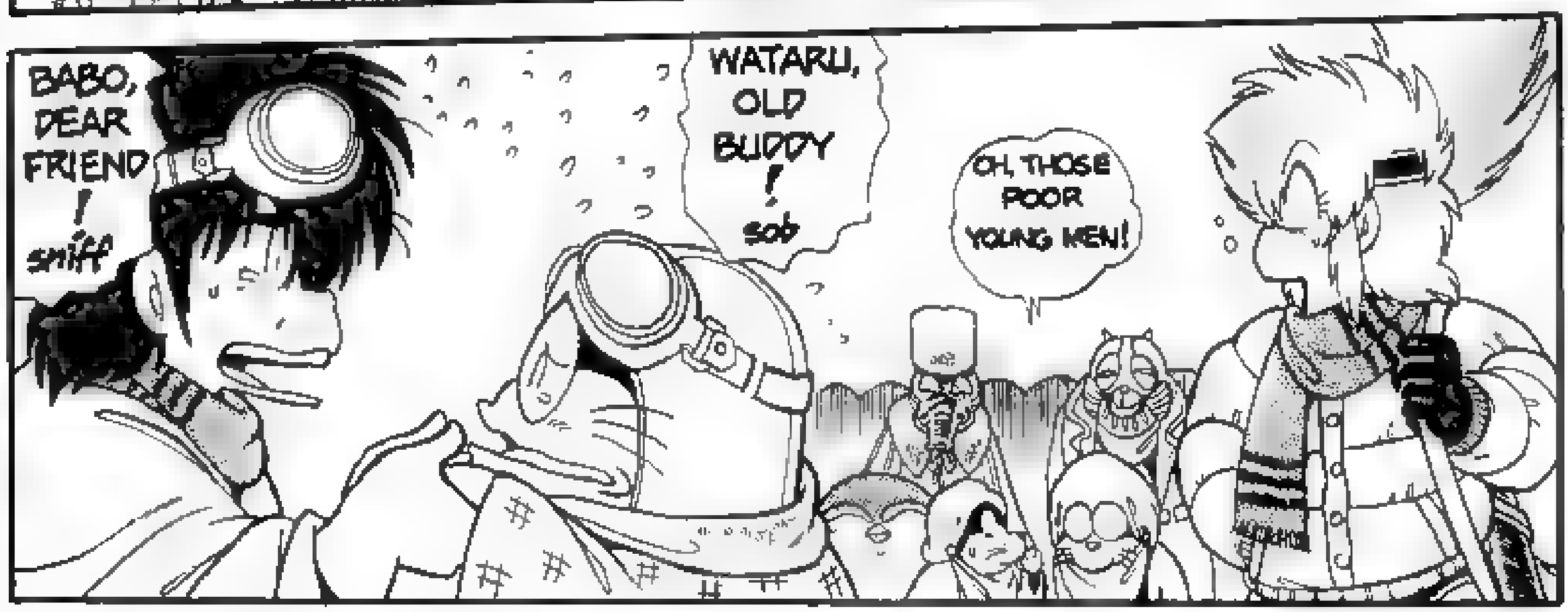
YEAH, BUT NOT FOR *US*. POOR, POOR PITIFUL US...

...sniff... I WAN' MY MOMMY...

SO *THIS* IS WHERE YOU GOT TO!

OH... HI, MIAN.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU--DON'T USE MY NAME IN PUBLIC! WHAT'S BUGGING YOU TWO NOW!?

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. BUT ME AND MY POOR, LONG-SUFFERING BUDDY HAVEN'T HAD A PROPER CHRISTMAS FOR A LONG TIME.
NO LOG FIRE, NO MULLED WINE, NO SANTA CLAUS BRINGING ME RESALABLE, HIGH-VALUE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS...


BABO, DEAR FRIEND! sniff
WATARU, OLD BUDDY! sob
OH, THOSE POOR YOUNG MEN!

ALL RIGHT, I GIVE! I GIVE!
A GOOD TIME'S WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT? SO LET'S PARTY!

YOU REALLY MEAN IT ?!
GEEZ, ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU SHUT YOUR WHINING TRAPS!

OUR MASTER WUVS US!
boohoohoo
CAN THE TEARS, WILL YA ?!
sheesh, IT'S JUST A DUMB PARTY!

SIIIILENT NIGHT...
HOOOLYY NIGHT...
AAALL IS CAAALM...
AAALLL IS BRIIIGHT...
'ROUND YOUNG VIRGIN, MASTER AND BLOB...
MERRY XMAS ANNA HAPPY NEW YEAR!
POP
A LITTLE LONELY, HUH?
NO KIDDIN'...?
CHRISTMAS?! BAH! HUMBUG! A POXSH ON IT ALL!
!

WHEEE !!!

•hic•

WHAT THE HECK... A REINDEER ?

A *PLASTERED* REINDEER,

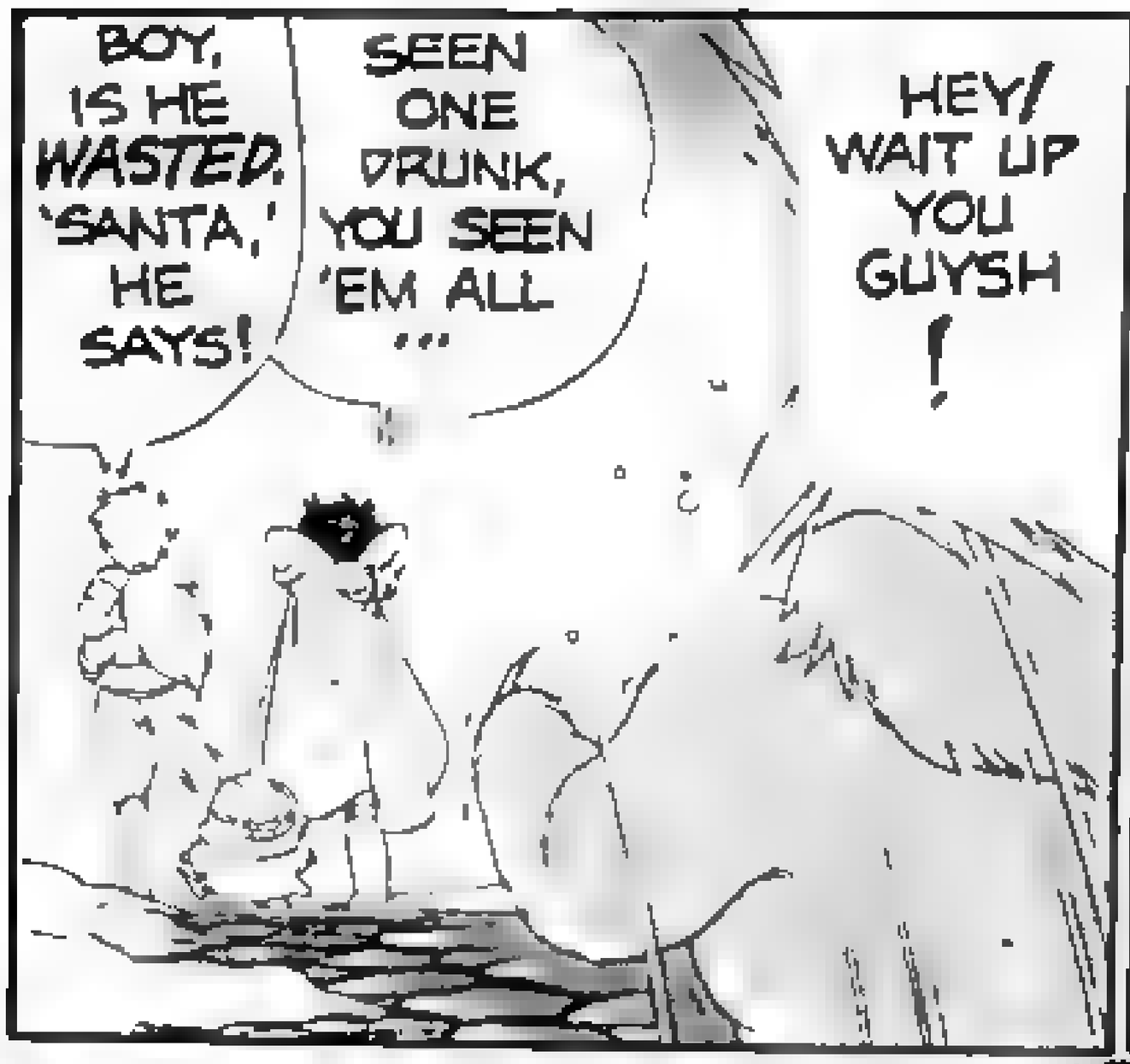
AW, SHUDDUP YER MOUTH! ALL THIS REIND—•hic• REINDEER BIZNESS! •hic•

I AIN'T NO ORDINARY REINDEER, Y'KNOW! I'S A *SPESHIAL* REINDEER!

RIGHT... A *DRUNKEN* ONE! WE ALREADY FIGURED THAT OUT!

T'HELL WISH THAT! I'M *FAMOUSH!* I'M THE REINDEER WHO PULLS SANNA'S SHLEIGH! •hic• ON DONNER! ON BLITSHEN!!!

jingle jingle


BOY, IS HE *WASTED.* 'SANTA,' HE SAYS!
SEEN ONE DRUNK, YOU SEEN 'EM ALL ...
HEY! WAIT UP YOU GUYSH !

C'MON, NOBODY BELIEVES THAT SANTA RUBBISH!
SOMETHING FOR NOTHING... IT'S A NICE DREAM...
I'LL SAY!

CRNK !!
WHUP

THERE! hic- *NOW* D'YA B'LIEVE ME ?!

NYAHAHA!

HOLY COW!

KONG

R.I.P.

SHO HOW ABOUT *THAT*, EH? YOU GUYSH-*hic*- BELIEVE ME NOW, HUH?

YEAH, WELL, I GUESS SO...

I BELIEVE HE'S AN IDIOT, ANYWAY...

BUT IF YOU'RE *REALLY* SANTA'S REINDEER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

Shiffff

;waaahh; THANK YOU FOR CARING!!

GRR!

HEY, IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, RIGHT? SANTA ALLOWS DRUNK DRIVING -er- REINDEERING, WHATEVER?
THASH, THASH THE PROBLEM ...
MY BOSS HASH GOTTEN OLD AND FRAIL...
HOHOHO? heeheehee
NOT T'MENTION A LI'L BIT DOTTY ...
YOU MEAN SENILE? YOU'RE KIDDING! THEN WHAT ABOUT CHRISTMAS?
HEY, I'LL DO IT FOR A PRICE! THE RIGHT PRICE!
NAW, NAW, THASH NOT TH' PROBLEM. HE'SH GOT A SUC-SHESSOR ALL CHOSEN,
HISH SHWEET LI'L OL' DAUGHTER!
SANTA CLAUS HAS A DAUGH-TER ?
IS SHE... IS SHE A BABE ?!?!
WELL, UH ...

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU WENT ALL RED.
DID I ? ISH NOTHIN' !

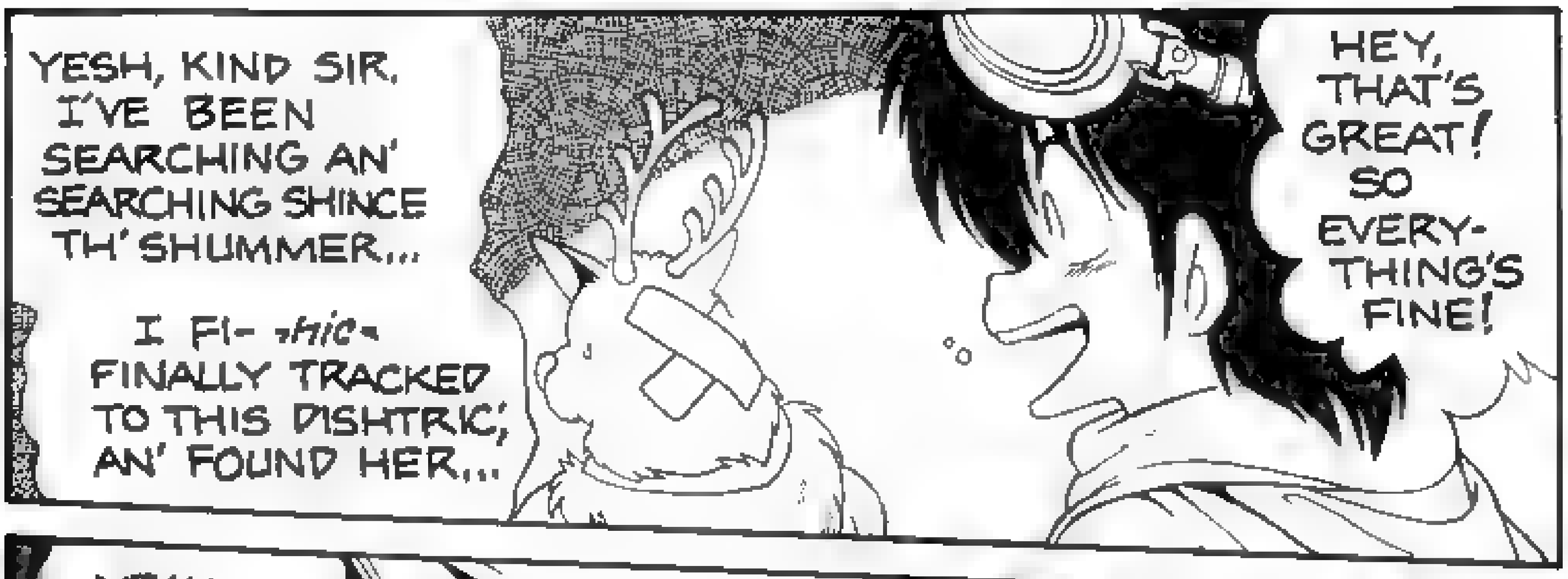
WELL, IF SANTA'S GOT A DAUGHTER, GET A MOVE ON AND HELP HER OUT!
IT'S HER FIRST TIME, RIGHT? IT'S A BIG JOB BEING SANTA...

THASH TH' PROBLEM... SHE - SHE'SH RUN AWAY FROM HOME !!

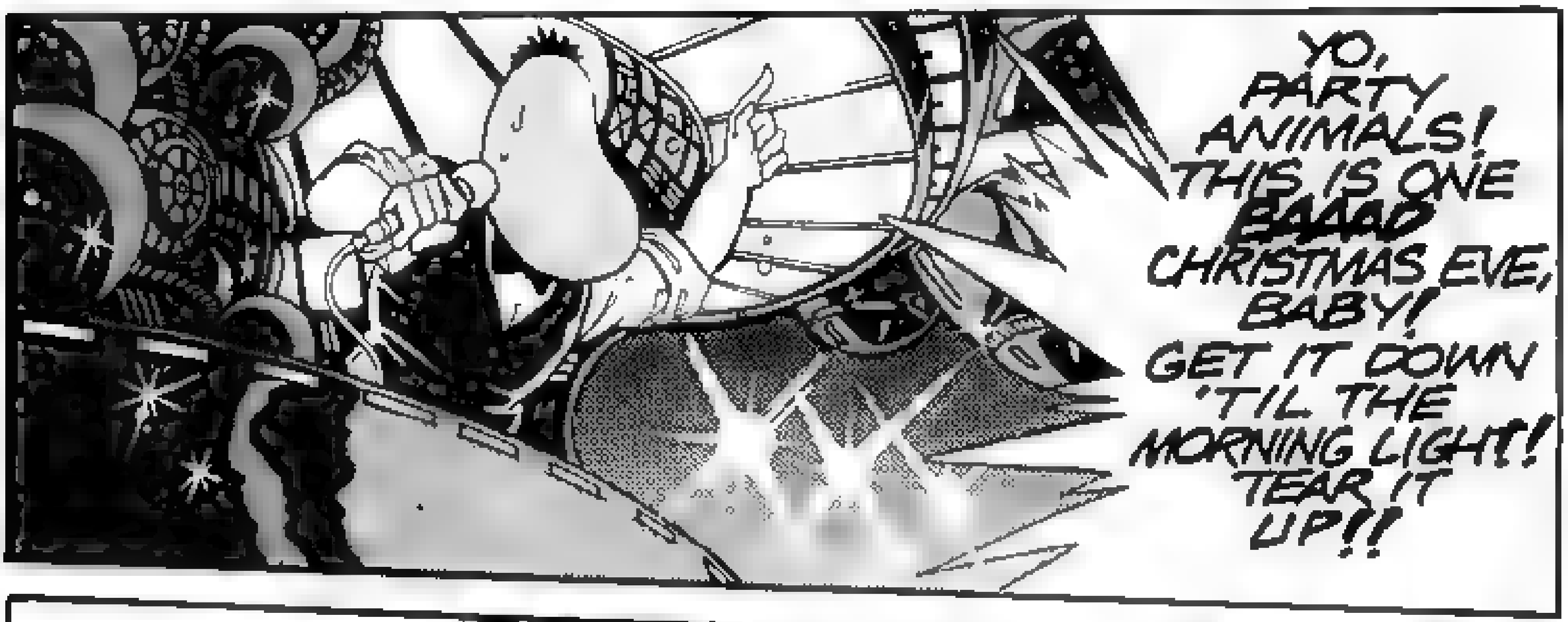
A RUN-AWAY !
WELL, IT MUST BE HARD, TAKING CARE OF A SENILE OLD COOT... STILL, WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO?

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL! *hic* THE LITTLE LADY'SH ALL SHOFT AN' LOVING AT HEART!

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HAM-MERED, huh?


YESH, KIND SIR. I'VE BEEN SEARCHING AN' SEARCHING SHINCE TH' SHUMMER...
I FI- -HIC- FINALLY TRACKED TO THIS DISHTRIC', AN' FOUND HER...
HEY, THAT'S GREAT! SO EVERY-THING'S FINE!

YEAH, I FIGGURED SHO, BUT...
WHEN I FOUND HER, SHE...


YO, PARTY ANIMALS! THIS IS ONE BADDD CHRISTMAS EVE, BABY! GET IT DOWN 'TIL THE MORNING LIGHT! TEAR IT UP!!

I TAKE IT MISS SANTA SWIPED DADDY'S CREDIT CARD...

THE LITTLE LADY'SH BREAKIN' HER POOR OL' PAPA'SH HEART. *hic* IT'SH JUSHT PARTY, PARTY, PARTY, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.
NOW LET'S GET THIS DEAL STRAIGHT --YOU PROMISE US AS MANY PRESENTS AS WE WANT AS LONG AS WE GET HER OUT OF HERE?
er... I'LL DO MY BESHT, OKAY?

OOOH, LOOK! IT'S A REINDEER!

TOO COOL!!

ALL RIGHT! NOW IT'S *REALLY* LIKE CHRISTMAS!

WHERE'S SANTA CLAUS?! YOU LEFT HIM AT HOME?!

EEP!

YOU JUST *HAVE* TO DANCE WITH ME!

YOUR CUTE LITTLE NOSE IS SO RED!!

SMEAK

YOW! SANTA, BRING ME ONE OF *THOSE*, WRAPPED IN CELLOPHANE!

HEY, *BOWSER*!

DAMN! DON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP, YOU DUMB REINDEER ?!

MISS SANTA !

urk !

THAT'S SANTA'S DAUGHTER ?

MISS SANTA, I BEG YOU ...PLEASE COME HOME WITH ME.

I SAID NO WAY AND I MEAN NO WAY! SO TAKE A HIKE!!

B-B-BUT TONIGHT ISH CHRISTMAS EVE!

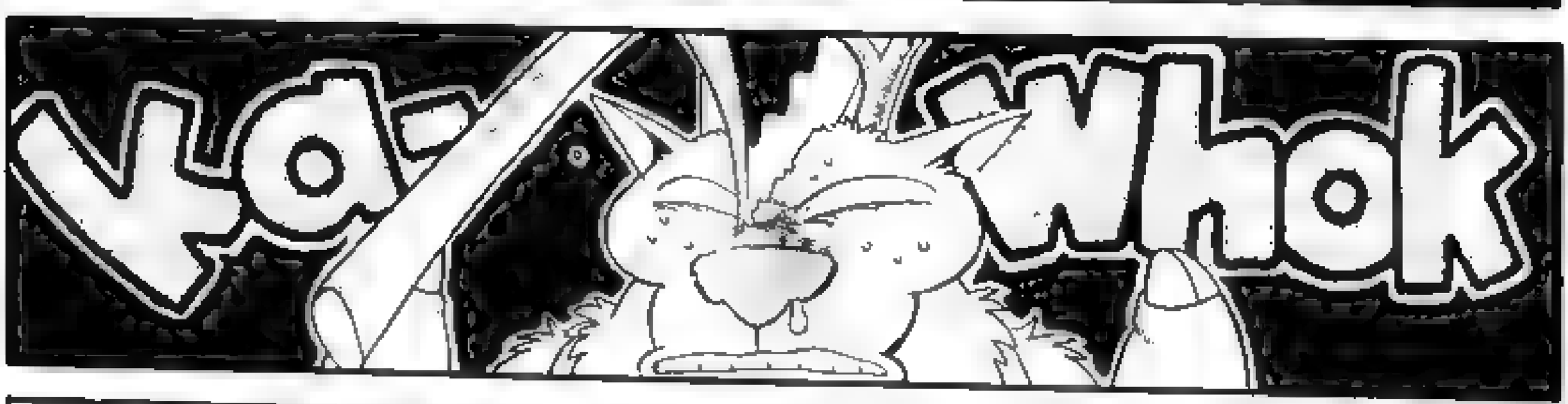
SO WHAT'S IT TO ME, HUH?! BUG OFF!

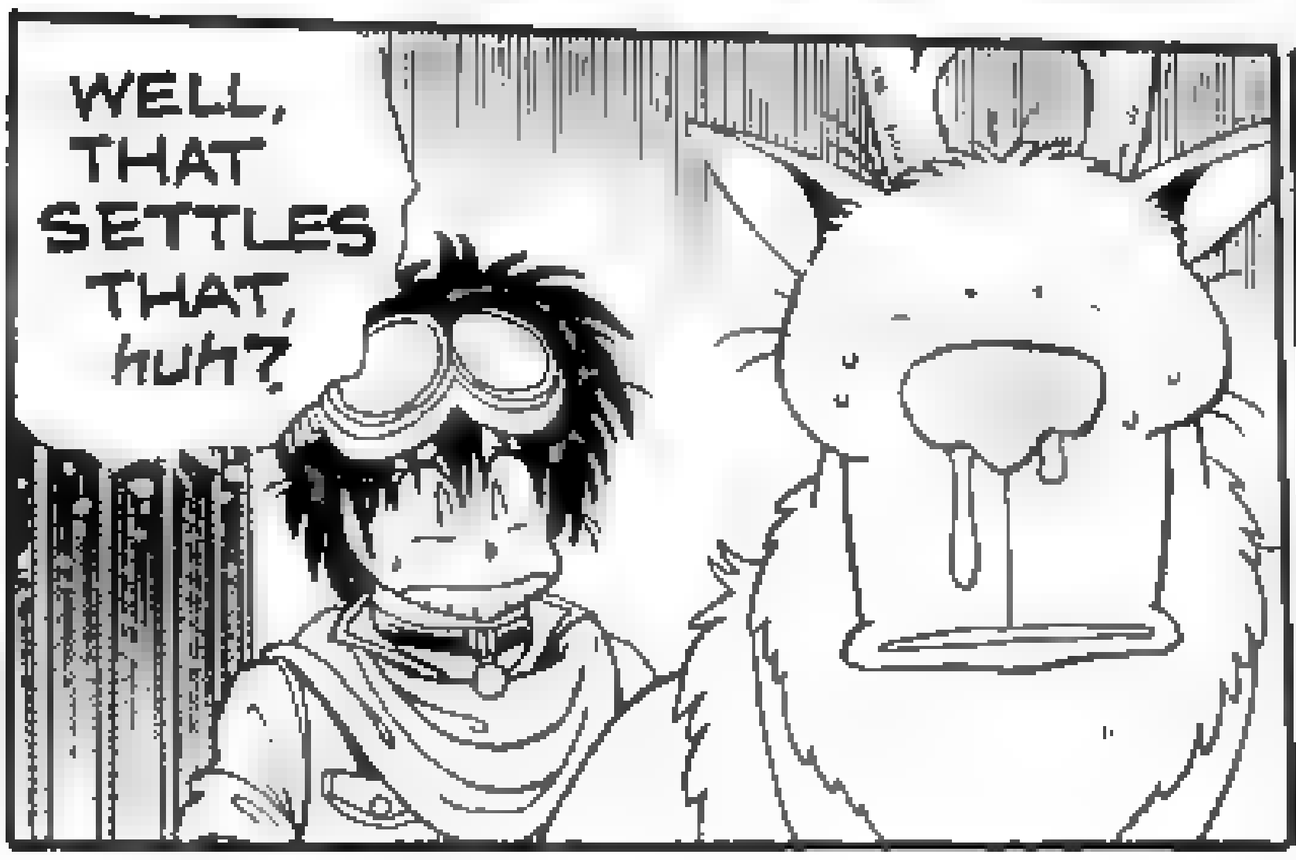
HEY, KONA! THIS CUTIE-PIE A FRIEND OF YOURS?

HE'S SO DARLING !

hmph! NEVER SAW THE JERK BEFORE IN MY LIFE!
SO... WHO WANTS TO DANCE?
BUT MISS SANTA...

LOOK-- I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, YOU GODDAMN STINKIN' UGLY HAIRBALL JERK!


ka-whok


WELL, THAT SETTLES THAT, HUH?

DO... DO SOME-THING! I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER HERE!
RIGHT, RIGHT, CALM DOWN.

uhm, EXCUSE ME! MISS SANTA?!

uh... HI?

YOU'RE ONE PATHETIC BOWLEGGED, HAYSEED HICK TO THINK I'D DANCE WITH YOU!

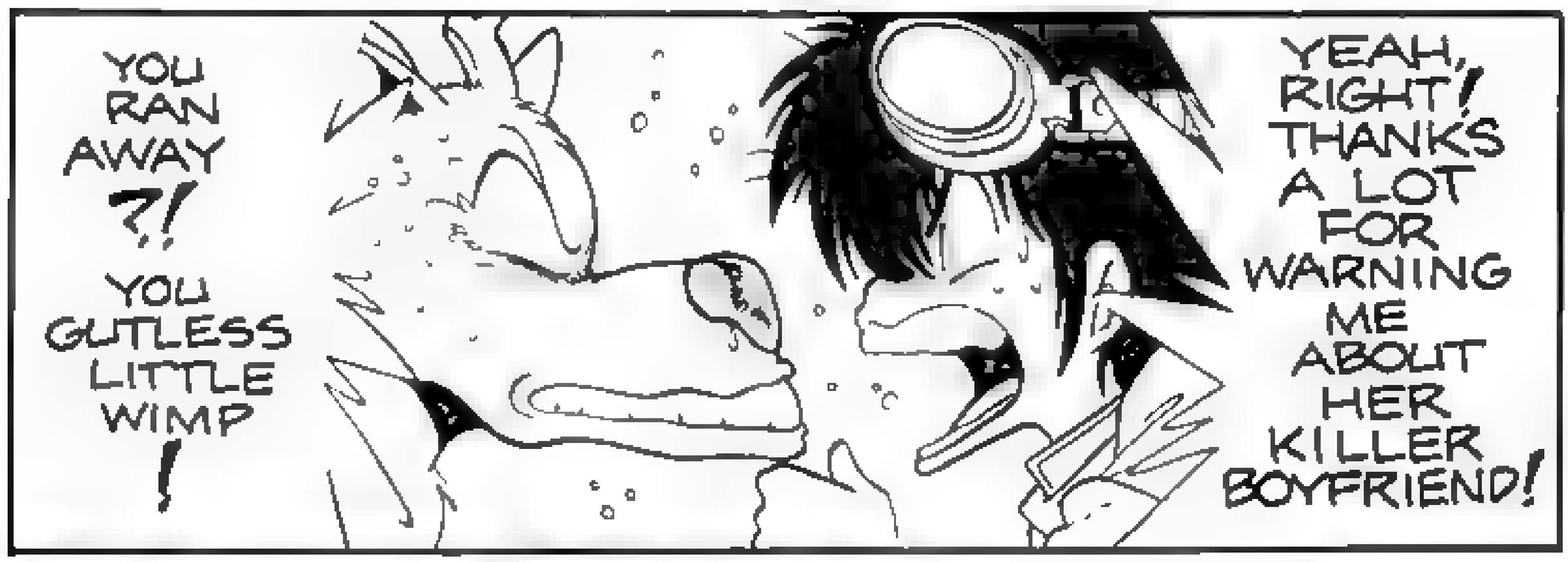
JUST COME WITH ME FOR A MINUTE, DAMMIT! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

GET YOUR SLIMY MEATHOOKS OFF OF ME!

WHUD'S DA PROBLEM, KONA! WHO'S DA MUG?!

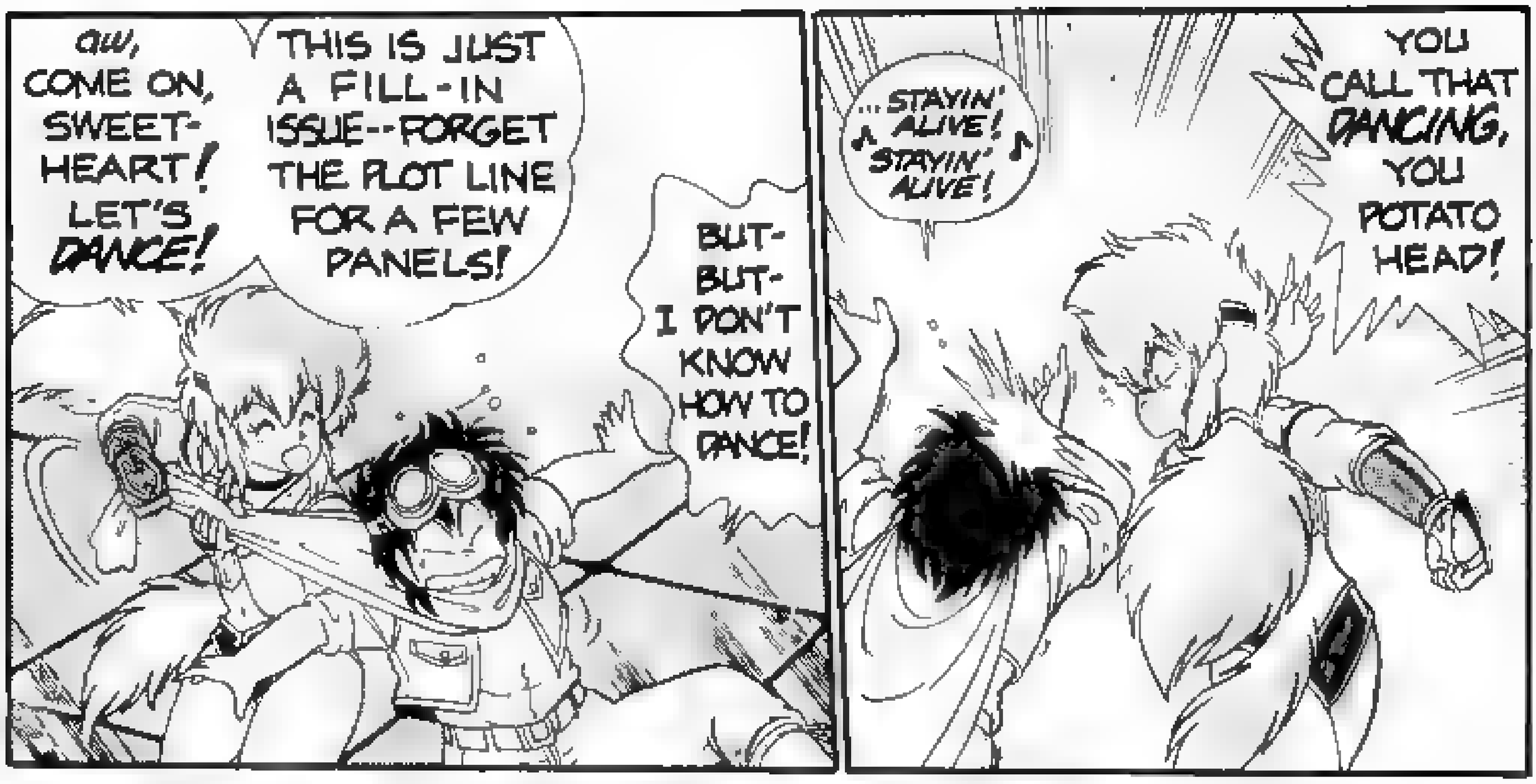
BYE-BYE!

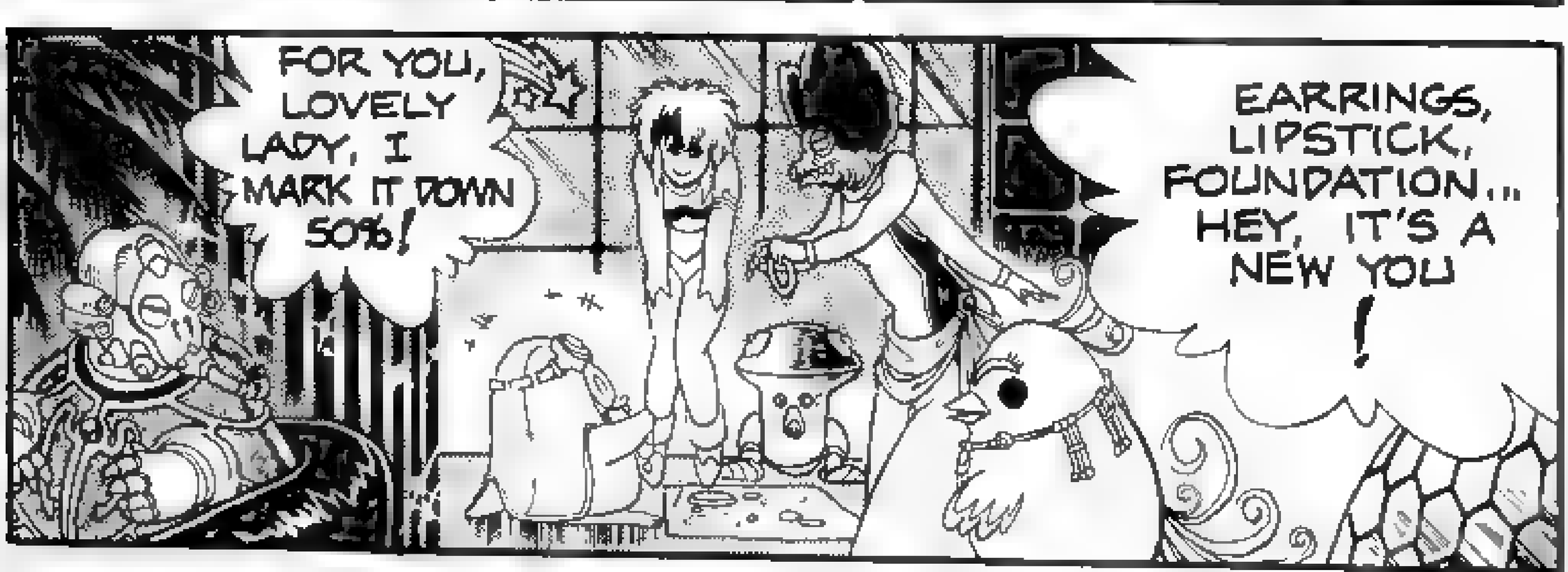
MM, NOBODY SPECIAL ...


YOU RAN AWAY ?! YOU GUTLESS LITTLE WIMP !
YEAH, RIGHT! THANKS A LOT FOR WARNING ME ABOUT HER KILLER BOYFRIEND!

WITH THAT GUY HANGING AROUND, I BETTER GO GET--

HEY, WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO DANCE!
EEP!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, SPOILSPORT? I'M HAVING FUN!
JUST GIVE ME A HAND FOR A SEC, OKAY?


aw, COME ON, SWEET-HEART! LET'S DANCE!
THIS IS JUST A FILL-IN ISSUE--FORGET THE PLOT LINE FOR A FEW PANELS!
BUT-BUT- I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DANCE!
...STAYIN' ALIVE! ♪ STAYIN' ALIVE!
YOU CALL THAT DANCING, YOU POTATO HEAD!


FOR YOU, LOVELY LADY, I MARK IT DOWN 50%!
EARRINGS, LIPSTICK, FOUNDATION... HEY, IT'S A NEW YOU !

WHAT THE HECK DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING! •hic• THISH ISH THE LAST TIME I HIRE THESH GUYS FOR A CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!
DARN IT ALL... I'LL JUSHT HAFTA CONVINCE HER MYSHELF! •hic•
MISS SANTA !!

IT'SH THE *SACRED DUTY* OF A CLAUS, MISS SANTA!

YOU'RE LETTIN' DOWN ALL THE CHILDREN, THE--

YOU'RE A REAL PAIN IN THE BUTT, BOWSER!

BUT THERE'SH NO TIME LEFT!

I'LL GET YOU HOME IF I HAVE TO *HIC* *DRAG* YOU THERE!

whoops

PREPARE TA MEET YER MAKER, YA MANGY HUNKA COWHIDE!!

!

D-DON'T HURT HIM, KHARAK ...

LOOK, TAKE IT FROM ME, BABE, GUYS LIKE DIS, IF YA DON'T BUST 'EM UP A BIT...

Aiyeee!
DEY JUST DON' GET IT !!

SKRAACH
ZRAKK
BOOM
TAP
TAP
TAP
FZAKK
AIEEE !!!
SZZZK FZZAK
IT'S SHORTING OUT !!

WHOOSH

FZZAKK FZZAKK

THERE... -hic- HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO USH, NOW.

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, DRAGGING ME UP HERE ?!

I'M *NOT* GOING HOME, UNDERSTAND ?!

NEVER, EVER! NO WAY!

WHA--

PUT THESH ON, MISS SANTA!

DADDY'S COAT AND HAT...

NO WAY!
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS STUPID OLD SANTA CLAUS JUNK! WHY SHOULD I EVEN CARE?!
STUPID...?!
JUST LOOK AT IT FROM MY SIDE FOR ONCE, OKAY? DOWN IN THE REAL WORLD, EVERYBODY'S HANGING OUT, HAVING A GOOD TIME.
I WANT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, TOO. IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?! I WANT A REAL LIFE!
BUT... BUT IT'SH SANTA'S JOB TO BRING EVERYONE PRESENTS. *HIC*
NOT JUST PRESENTS... HAPPINESS TOO.
BUT DOING IT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY! SO WHEN DO I GET MY HAPPINESS?!
ah-CHOO!

OH, GIVE ME THAT DUMB OUTFIT, I'M FREEZING.
YOU'LL WEAR THEM ?!

I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU, BOWSER. I DON'T HAVE A GLUED-ON FUR COAT.

YAHOO! IT LOOKSH PERFECT ON YA! ♡

YOU DUMB OL' GOAT ...
YOU DON'T NEED TO GIVE ME THAT CRAP.

KACHOK!
YOU RATBAG FLEABITTEN MULE! I'LL TEAR YOUR ANTLERS OFF!
KACHOK
KACHOK

HE'S TRYING TO CHOP DOWN THE TREE!
YEESH... WHAT DO YOU SHEE IN HIM, ANYWAY?
EEEEK!
MISS SANTA!!
SHE'S FALLING!!
OOMPH!
FLUMP

TIMBERRRR !!!
KRAKKK
WHKEEE

whoo, BOY. WE REALLY DID SIT THIS ISSUE OUT...
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY !!

IT'S SANTA CLAUS! IT'S REALLY SANTA CLAUS!

SANTA! SANTA!

PAPA, MAMA, IT'S SANTA! LOOK, LOOK!

WOWEE!

BONG

BONG

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT...

ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT...

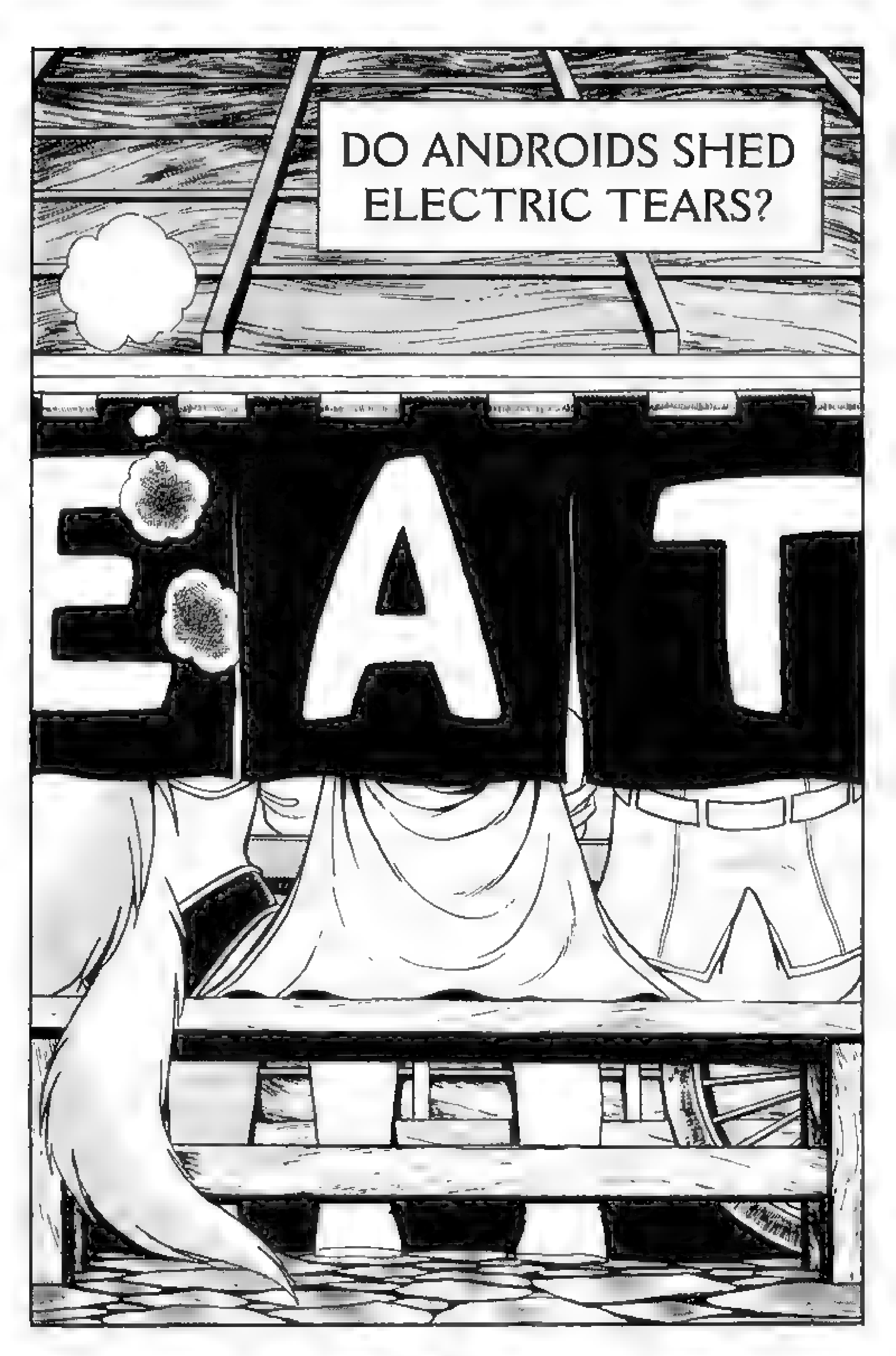
"ROUND YON VIRGIN MOTHER AND CHILD..."

YOU KNOW, THIS ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.
I TOLD YOU, -hic- THAT'SH WHY YOUR FATHER LOVED DOIN' IT.
AND IT IS JUST ONCE A YEAR ...
IS IT TOO LATE TO DELIVER ALL THE PRESENTS ?
WE'LL DO OUR BESHT, -hic-

YOU SAW SANTA CLAUS ?!
GOOD LORD, KESSELRING, IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE ?!

SO WHAT ABOUT ME, HUH ?

jingle bells ...
jingle bells ...
WOULD YOU GUYS PLEASE STOP WHIMPERING ?!?


DO ANDROIDS SHED ELECTRIC TEARS?
EAT

BAM!

NOW LISTEN UP! THE YEAR-END SALES SEASON IS *WAR*, KIDDIES, THE AKOGI *GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG*!

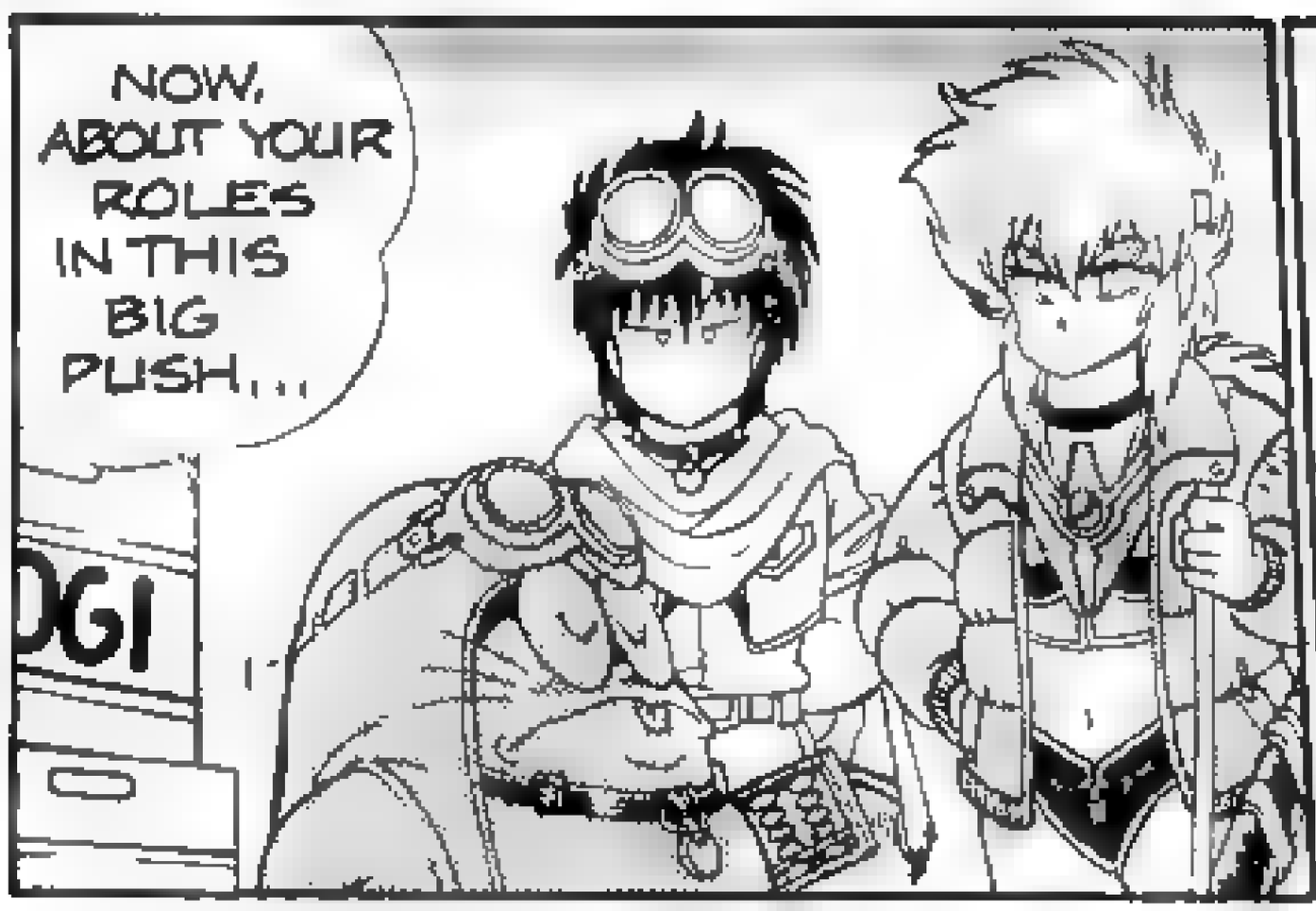
SALES TARGET! 100,000 D.D.

ANY LOWLIFE WIMP SCUM WHO CAN'T MAKE MONEY AT YEAR-END GETS *DRUMMED OUT*! NO MORE DELIVERIES FROM THE AKOGI UNDERGROUND!

AKOGI

AKOGI

SO GO OUT AND *SELL*, TEAM! GO OUT AND SELL SAND TO THE DESERT RATS!



HEY! COME BACK HERE !!

HA, HA! TAKE THAT!

SINCE WHEN DO WE HAVE TO HELP YOU GET RICH, YOU MONEY-GRUBBING COOTIE!?

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! LITTLE MISER!

eh?

HOW DID YOU GET HERE ?!

bgh!

YOU DRAGGED ME HERE, YOU BEAN-BRAINED BIMBO!

DID NOT !!

YOU TALK BACK TOO MUCH.

sorry

I'M FEELING A BIT PECKISH, LET'S GRAB A BITE.
ALL RIGHT!!
MAKE IT SNAPPY!
WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO BUY?
DON'T SCREW UP THIS TIME! ONE CHEESEBURGER, WITH A LARGE FRIES! AND SWEETIE, HOLD THE PICKLES.
YES, MASTER.
heh, heh...
....

sooner or later he'll figure it out.
I wonder if I should just tell him everything, no holding back.
but once he knows what I'm trying to do... what'll he do about it?
IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?
NO, MY FRIEND'S UP FRO--

WELL, MAYBE I'LL JUST SIT DOWN UNTIL HE RETURNS.

SHION!

IT'S BEEN AWHILE, MIAN.

YOUR LAST CHANCE!

FORGET YOU WERE EVER A *BREAKER* AND COME TO ME, MIAN!

YOU WANT MY COOPER-ATION?

ABANDON MY DUTY AS A BREAKER?

NO GODDAMN WAY!!

WHY DO YOU CLING SO TO THIS 'DUTY'...

DON'T YOU SEE HOW FOOLISH IT IS?

BUT... BUT... BUT THAT'S OUR MISSION! ALL OF US!

IT'S ALL THE WILL OF THE CREATOR!

THE 'CREATOR' AGAIN...

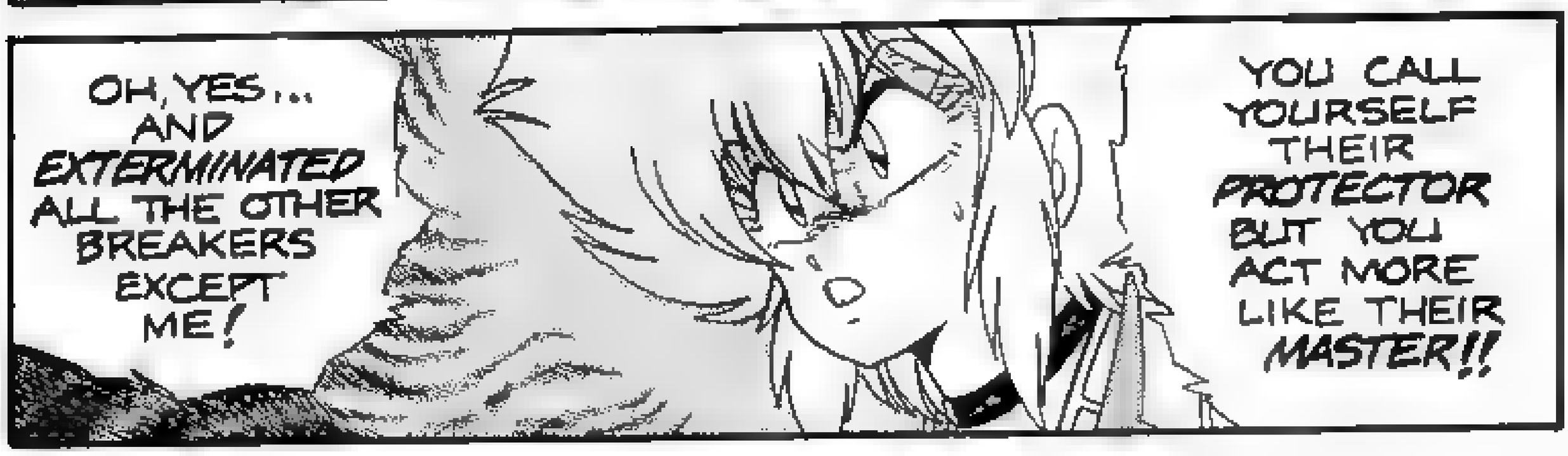
LET ME ASK YOU THIS... DO YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR BREAKER DUTY WILL MEAN?

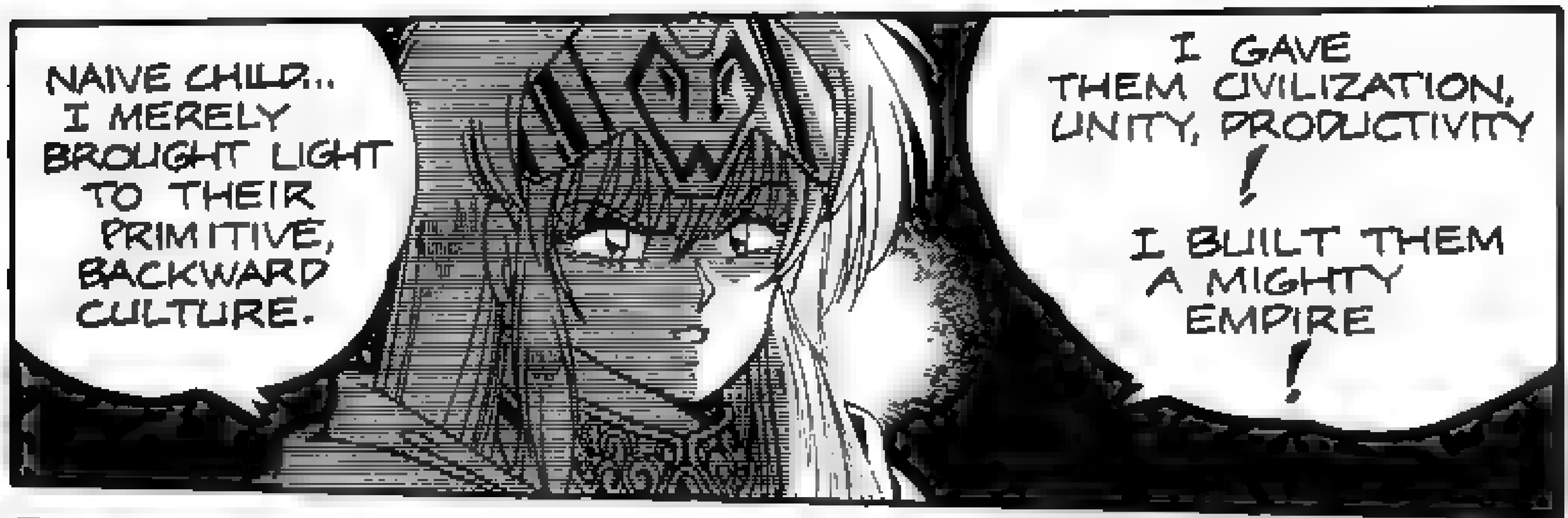
LOOK AROUND YOU, MIAN.

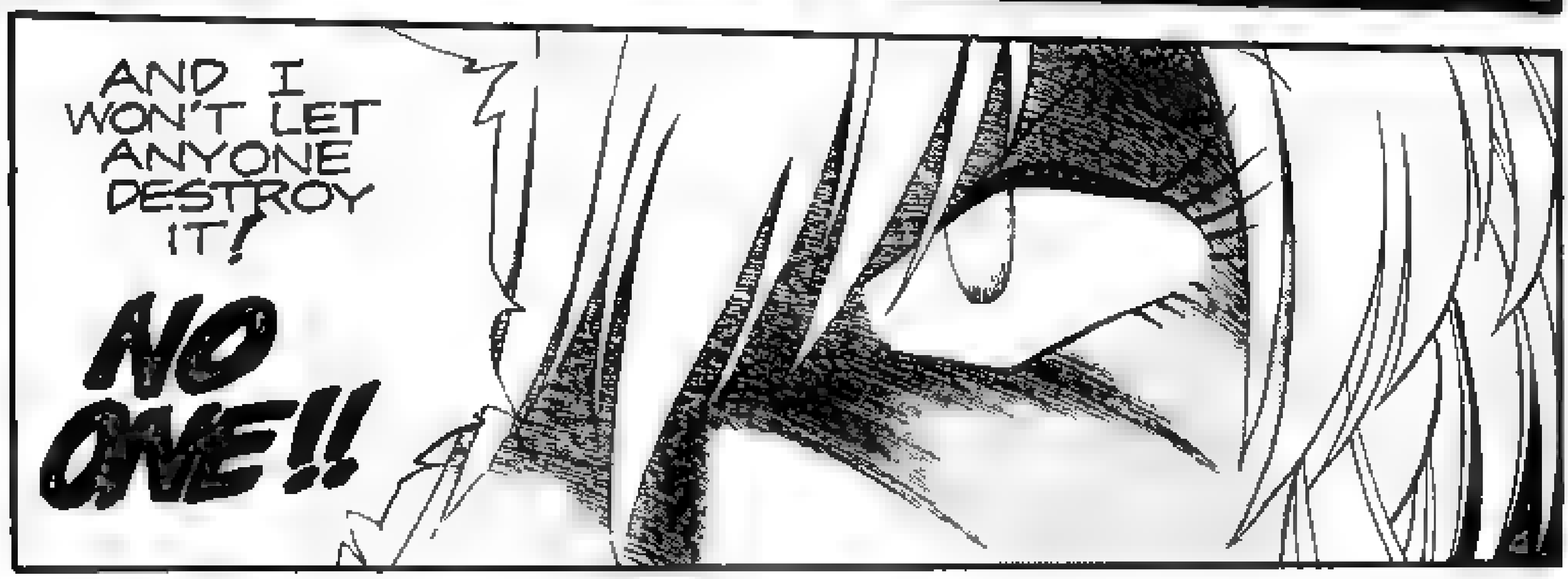
EH?

YOUR DUTY MEANS DESTROYING THEM ALL, ALL THESE INNOCENT, UNKNOWING PEOPLE.
CAN YOU REALLY DO THAT?

I CER-TAINLY COULDN'T.
THAT'S WHY I REJECTED OUR MISSION AND BECAME THEIR PROTECTOR.


OH, YES... AND EXTERMINATED ALL THE OTHER BREAKERS EXCEPT ME!
YOU CALL YOURSELF THEIR PROTECTOR BUT YOU ACT MORE LIKE THEIR MASTER!!


NAIVE CHILD... I MERELY BROUGHT LIGHT TO THEIR PRIMITIVE, BACKWARD CULTURE.
I GAVE THEM CIVILIZATION, UNITY, PRODUCTIVITY!
I BUILT THEM A MIGHTY EMPIRE!


AND I WON'T LET ANYONE DESTROY IT!
NO ONE!!

.....

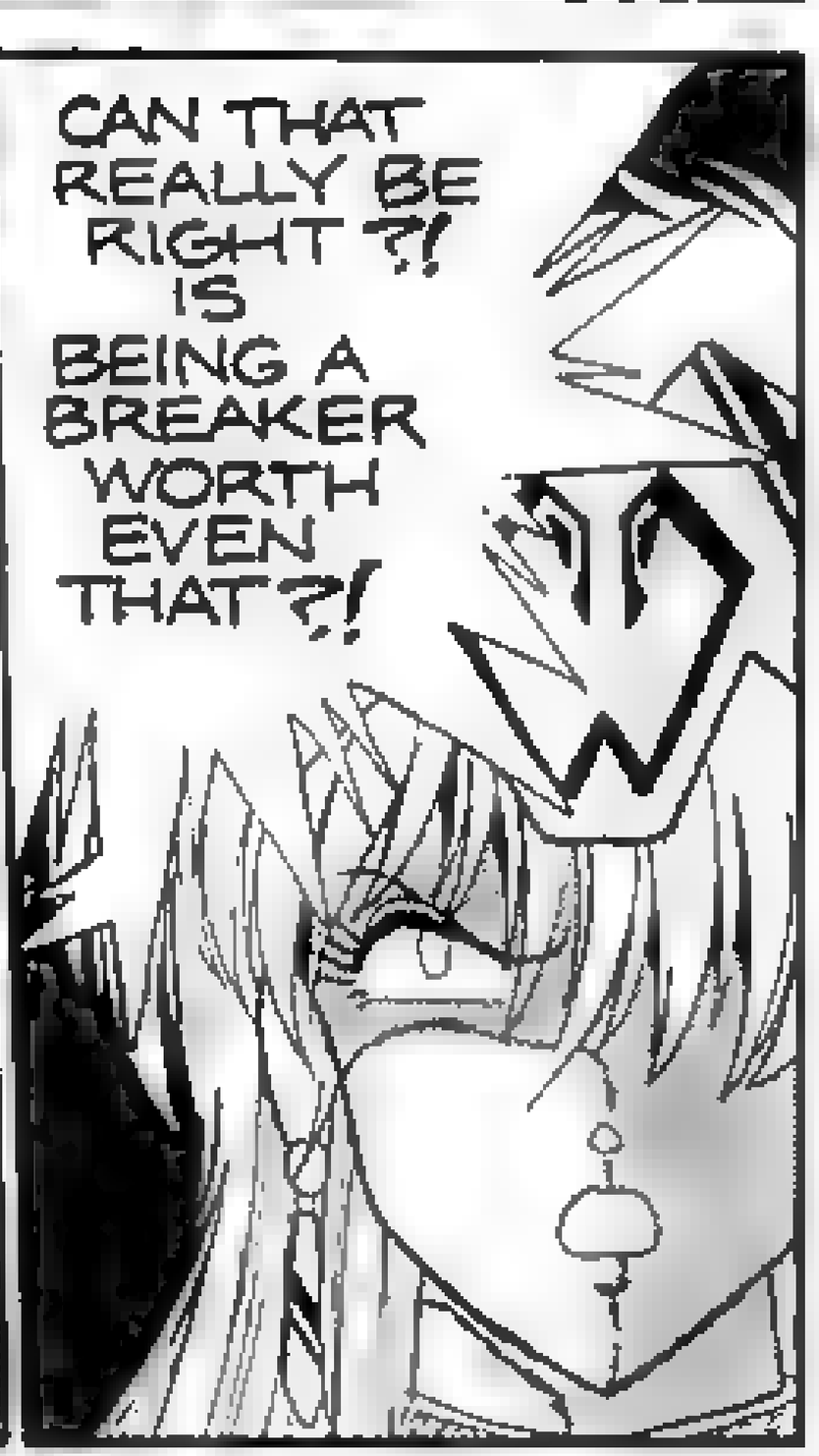
DUTY IS DUTY !!
YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS DON'T MATTER !

FEELINGS ...?
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU, DEAR MIAN.

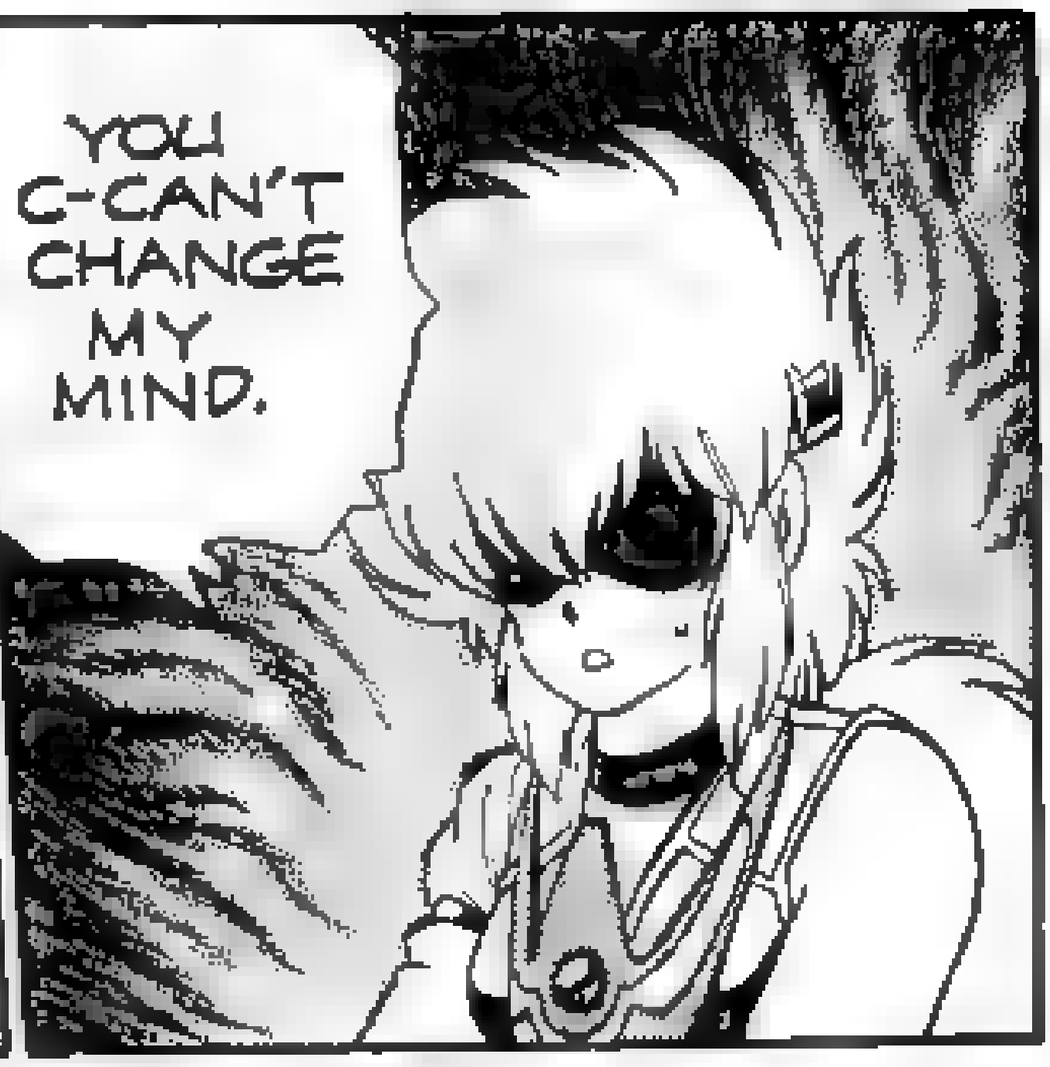
SLAVING AWAY AT THE CREATOR'S ORDERS ...
DOESN'T IT HURT EVEN A LITTLE? SACRIFICING THE MAN YOU LOVE?
WHO... WHO SAYS I LOVE ANY-BODY ?!!

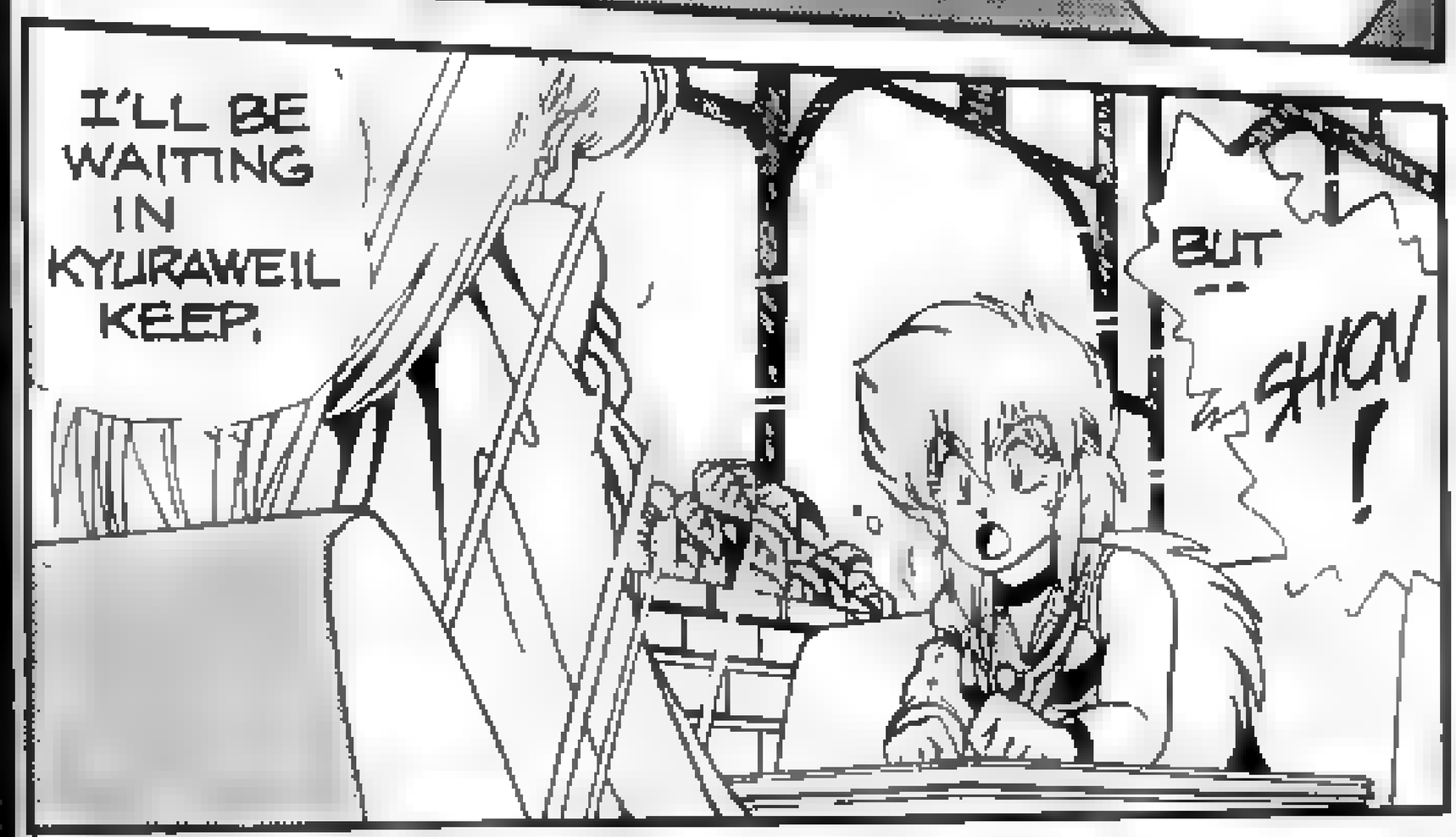
OH, COME NOW. YOU CAN'T HIDE IT FROM ME.
YOU AND WATARU CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER, LIKE EACH OTHER ...

BUT IN THE END, YOU'LL GO AHEAD AND BETRAY HIM. YOU'LL TAKE HIS LIFE AND END IT!


CAN THAT REALLY BE RIGHT ?! IS BEING A BREAKER WORTH EVEN THAT ?!

CAN THAT REALLY BE RIGHT?!!





I GOT YOUR GRUB.

BOY, WAS IT EVER CROWDED! WHAT A MADHOUSE!

THAT'S WEIRD. I COULD'VE SWORN I SAW YOU TALKING TO SOMEONE...

kzak

ah?

HEY, WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU FEELIN' SICK OR SOMETHIN?

BUG OFF!

•sniff

oh my god! she's... she's CRYING?!

GZSWORK
HEY HEY!
COME ON! WHAT'RE YOU CRYING ABOUT?!
WILL YOU JUST SHUT UP?! I JUST GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE, THAT'S ALL!
GEE, WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE?
SHUDDUP SHUDDUP SHUDDUP!!
IF I SAY I GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE, THEN I DO!!!
WH-WHAT-EVER YOU SAY...
SWIP
FOR PETE'S SAKE!

NOW WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE HUNGRY.
WHAT? OH, OH, YEAH, STARVING ...
WEIRD BROAD ...
still, shion might be on to something, what did she say... we like each other?
let's try this out, mian m'dear ...
SAY, WATARU ...
I WAS JUST WONDERING, YOU KNOW... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME?
THE BITCH FROM HELL.
SKRASH
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE VIOLENT, A LOUSY EMPLOYER, REMARKABLY STINGY, VILE TEMPER...
HNGGG

BUT STILL, IT'S FUN HANGING OUT WITH YOU.

HUH?

SURE! I MEAN, JUST ME AND BABO, WHAT A DRAG.

GIVE ME A CUTE BABE LIKE YOU ANY DAY!

REALLY?!

.....

MNCH MNCH GULP

RECENTLY, YOU'VE STOPPED PESTERING ME ABOUT THINGS...

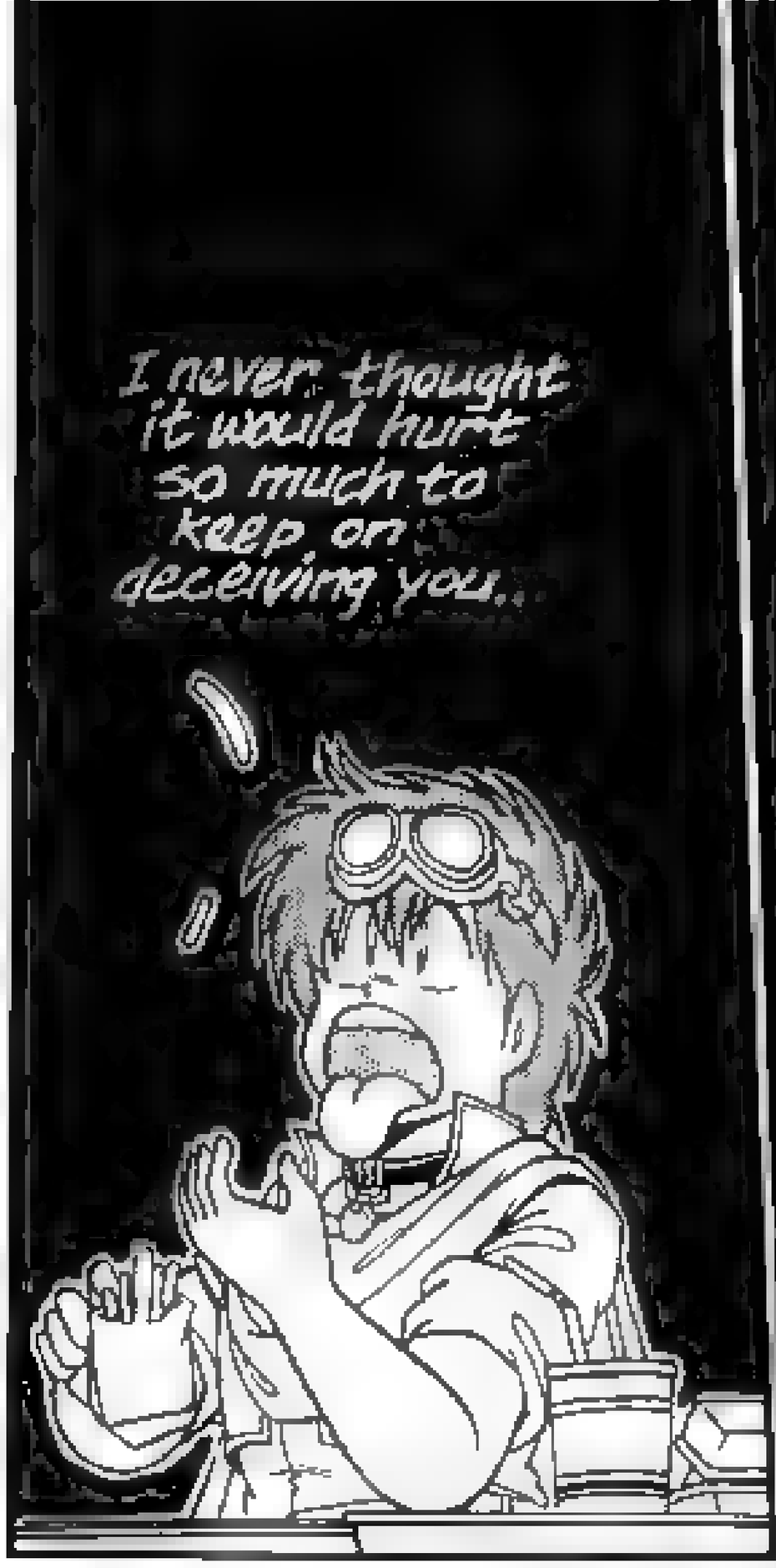
YOU KNOW, BREAKERS, THE EMPRESS...

LIKE HEY, YOU TOLD ME TO BELIEVE YOU, RIGHT?

SO I'M BE-LIEVING YOU, MIAN... BELIEVE ME.

TH-THANKS.

IT HURTS...



and with it, my mission, the sacred mission of a breaker.

WATARU, YOU'RE COMING WITH *ME*, BOY!

WHOA WHOA WHOA !!

FOR PETE'S SAKE, MIAN! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?!

HEY, WE'VE GOT SOME TIME OFF, RIGHT? LET'S HAVE A BLOWOUT AND FORGET *EVERYTHING!*

STARTING RIGHT NOW !!

what's with her?

a different mian every minute ...

YA HOO !!

JUMBO SATTUP WAP

YOU'RE DRAGGING YOUR ASS, BOY !

GET WITH IT !

DAMMIT! I'LL SHOW YOU !

VRROOOMMM

WHO'S A SLOWPOKE NOW, EH ?!
'SLOW DOWN-- THE 55 LIMIT SAVES LIVES' ...RIGHT?
something is bugging her?!
AIEEEE!! HELLP!! WHAT THE HELL?!
BZZAPP
BZZAPP

EAT YOUR HEART OUT! 50,000 POINTS!
BRITT
PIOW PIOW PIOW
SO WHAT? EVEN I CAN DO--
OH, SHIT!! I'M DEAD!!
AND ON THE FIRST ROUND, TOO!
YOU'RE AS USELESS AS THAT MANABE GUY, WATARU,
BKOOM ZAP
BOOM BOOM BOOM
BUDDABUD
ACK!!
BING BONGGG
GAME OVER
OH, BOY, WHAT A BUMMER. I ALMOST CLEARED THAT LAST LEVEL.

Hmmm
...

there's something fishy going on, milan.
you're trying too hard to have fun...

it looks like you're trying to convince yourself...
like there's something you want to forget...

I wonder what it is...
WHOORAM

HOLY BATSHIT!! THIS STUFF IS STRONG!!
WHAT THE HELL DID SHE ORDER?!
AAH! I'M ALL DANCED OUT!
I NEED A DRINK!

GIVE IT HERE, WATARU.

BUT--

WAIT, WAIT! THAT'S *REALLY* STRONG!

HEY, NO SWEAT! WANT ME TO CHUG IT FOR YOU?

STOP, YOU IDIOT! YOU NEED A MIXER--

GLUGGLUG

AAH...

SMACK!
oof!
AAH...
gmph!
BOY, MIAN, YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF TONIGHT!
NOW GET UP! COME ON!
WATARU...?
YOU KNOW, SEEING YOU LIKE THIS... YOU'RE NOT A BAD-LOOKING GUY...
HUH?
M-M-MIAN?
MIAN?! H-HEY, STOP THAT!
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!! HEY!
HEY!

MIAN, STOP IT! YOU'RE DRUNK!

IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF JOKE, IT'S NOT--

--FUNNY?

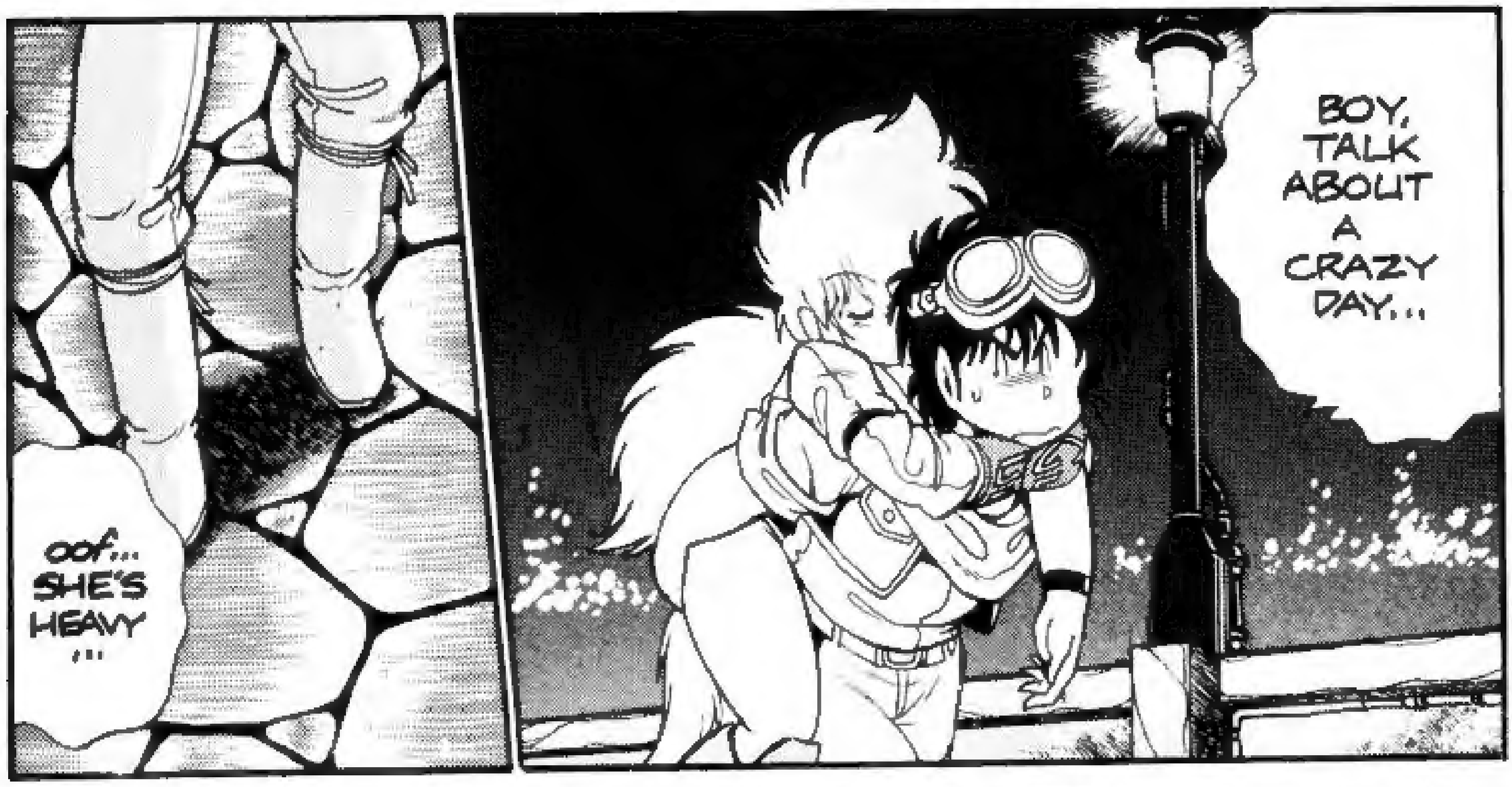
oh, wow... she... she means it...?!

this is bad, bad, bad! if we go to second base, even third base, I'll--

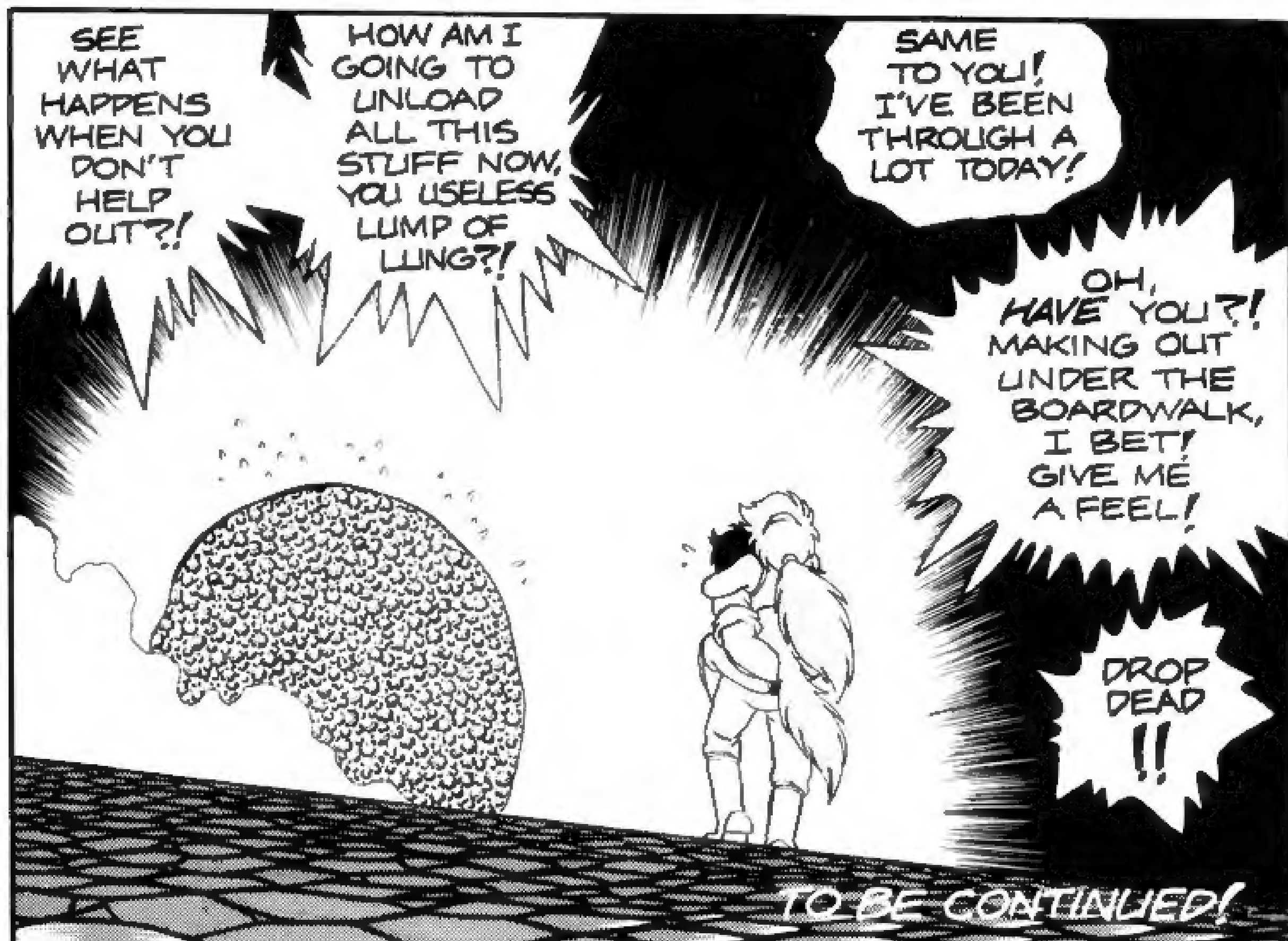
W-WAIT A MINUTE, MIAN! I APPRECIATE THIS, I REALLY DO! BUT I'M NOT SPIRITUALLY PREPARED TO ENTER A SIGNIFICANT RELATIO

NOT... YET...

WHUD
SAY!!!
ZZZ
.....
SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY WRONG WITH YOU TONIGHT, MIAN...
WOW!
WHAT TH' HECK?


OOF... SHE'S HEAVY ...
BOY, TALK ABOUT A CRAZY DAY...

BABO !
WHAT'S ALL THAT JUNK ?
JUNK ...?!! IT'S LEFTOVER INVENTORY !!


SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T HELP OUT?!
HOW AM I GOING TO UNLOAD ALL THIS STUFF NOW, YOU USELESS LUMP OF LUNG?!
SAME TO YOU! I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TODAY!
OH, HAVE YOU?! MAKING OUT UNDER THE BOARDWALK, I BET! GIVE ME A FEEL!
DROP DEAD !!
TO BE CONTINUED!